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Σ FB

MacGown

N. F. R.

May 1900



11-22-20



THE SOLEMN DEPAI

OF

SAINTS AND SIN

REPRESENTED

UNDER THE SIMILITUDE OF

BY THE

REV. JOHN MACGOV

nd deliver them, who, through the fe
were all their lifetime subject to
Job. ii. 15

778346 A

ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATION

M 1936 L

THE favourable reception which *ion*, has met with by the more pious; and the frequent accounts of its usefulness, especially to the weary den Christian, have induced me to make it, as much as possible, still more and to print it in a more suitable form book, or pocket companion, as well enlarge upon several circumstances mentioned.

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ASTOR, LENOX AND
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PREFACE.

THE favourable reception which *DEATH, a Vision*, has met with by the more pious and thoughtful; and the frequent accounts I have had of its usefulness, especially to the weary and heavy-laden Christian, have induced me to endeavour to make it, as much as possible, still more acceptable, and to print it in a more suitable form for a family book, or pocket companion, as well as greatly to enlarge upon several circumstances therein related.

The subject is of the highest importance.—Death casts the die, and unalterably fixes, forever fixes, our existence, either in a state of the purest holiness and consummate felicity; or in the blackest, horreur and most aggravated torments, in the howling regions of infamy and despair. It is of universal concern; all are equally interested in it; for “all must die.” This point admits of no controversy; nor can any man appeal from the awful decision. We may in other things, perhaps, allowably differ; but here our judgment must be unanimous, while we visit the tombs of our ancestors, and daily tread upon the dust once inhabited by immortal spirits. “Your fathers,—where”

WOR 20 JUN 34

... though
nounced, proclaims aloud the swift
Death to venerable age, ripening for
series of bodily infirmities. The youth
the bloom of youth, and strength of
this unequal war, can make no greater
than tottering weakness. Almost ev-
duceth fresh testimony, that youth is
an insurance from death, nor robust,
imbs a security from the grave. The
monarch comes down here to a par-
with the basest beggar; and the most
urean ranks only with the menial drudge
in the kitchen. Neither robes of
wn, nor crowns of the purest gold,
exempt their wearers from the pains of
a gloomy death bed.

~~man is about~~ preparation for death
man is about purchasing any value:
diligent he is to guard against in
gentleman purchaseth an estate, he
is after its real value, and with which
he examine the validity of his title
ing he is to hold it, as it were, only
or rather by the moment!

Strange it is, but it is true as the
bulk of mankind will take nothing but
cept their everlasting concerns. O man
art one of this thoughtless herd, all
thee, that thou hast a terrible death before
terrible death before thee, which will
thee, and will not spare thee one moment
of thine unpreparedness.

nuch assiduity as if Death had in
ence, and as if there was not an
consequent upon dissolution.
me leave to deal plainly with thee fo
ler,—for God, thy judge, will on
perhaps very soon, be plain, just
exact with thee, and with every one
to a severe account for the thoughtle
ays ; yea, and visit upon thee the
thine own inconsideration. Trem
at audit be, which is unthought of, :
hou art unprovided ; like the man
adding garment, the sinner shall
ess.

a pressest hard after the perishing ri
orld ; sometimes successfully, but fre

ing on the prospect of losing **thine** all. Couldst thou leave as many millions as thou dost pounds, to surviving heirs or to charitable uses, it would not, in the least, open upon **thy** heart the pleasing prospect of divine felicity, nor bribe the fangs of hell from seizing **thy** despairing spirit; would not even purchase thee a more tolerable station in the mansions of the damned, or one moment's respite from thine unutterable woe. Vain and insignificant wealth can only comfort in health and prosperity, but boasteth not the power of relieving when in the greatest necessity. Yet how many damn themselves by preferring thee, O delusive wealth, to Jesus and his salvation! O God, open the eyes of blind and thoughtless man, that he may be wise to consider his latter end!

Art thou a man of pleasure, and is **thine** heart in publick places of resort? How unworthy, then, the name of man! How much more excellent are the brutal ranks, which so faithfully answer the several ends of their existence! The very beasts that draw thee to routs and assemblies, and serve to promote thy unmanly dissipation, will bring in their several accusations; and all thine enjoyments will be swift witnesses against thee. Go on in thy life of festivity. Let every day be a renewed carnival; and every returning evening produce some new, some more pleasing revel than the former. Shut out from thine impious hear-

he has conferred upon thee ! If thou
God in time, thou shalt also die
be banished from him to eternity.

When disease shall seize thee,
sends his envenomed arrow at thee
thou thy couch to be carried to Val-
lie's, the Pantheon, or some other
ure, and try if thou canst die with
among the shouts of madness and
laughter. Yea, shroud thee in a
shalt see that Death, commissione
his aim, but among the giddy crowd
destined victim, and as soon despa
market or Convent-garden, as if
lonely desert. Shake off all restra

though you should live brutal lives, you shall have the privilege of dying like them, but must make your appearance before the eternal God, undergo the scrutiny of infinite Holiness, and be judged according to the deeds done in the body, whether they have been good or evil. If thou never bowed thy knee to the God that made thee, do it now; I beg of him to teach thee to act according to a rational being, accountable to thy Maker for all thy procedure. Seek his will in the volume of Revelation; so shalt thou be taught that without holiness man shall see the Lord, and that there is no holiness but what ariseth from being born again.—Therefore, “ye must be born again,” in order to be happy, and live forever blessed. Let whoever hears, laugh at the proposition; their impious ears will yield to thee in manner of excuse, when he shall demand thy spirit. I therefore take my leave of the thoughtless reader, by leaving this motto with him: “Remember, O man, that thou art and shalt die!”

I shall now beg leave to address you whom God has made sensible of the necessity of a Saviour, and of the awful importance of an enduring existence. Great are your privileges! and great your obligations! From Death you have nothing to fear; it must come when it will, it must come to you in a sudden manner; for it shall go well with them that fear the Lord. Mark; take particular notice

Behold the upright, who is the
or closet that you see him in
The end, the death, and death
peace and holy serenity, and
which neither earth nor hell
peace, which accompanies th
Christian, is the peace of God
and by him maintained, and co
ment of his sacred presence ;
as never yet filled the bosom
sinner, and therefore absolute
prehension of unassisted reas
gloomy while in the taberna
be rugged, and the path unev
pilgrim may come halting to h

ised end in view. Even in this life they shall bring forth in you the peaceable fruits of righteousness, while they are working out for you, according to the beautiful language of inspiration, "a far more exceeding and eternal weight of joy."

What a beautiful climax! what an ascent of blessing is here, springing from a source so unpromising! That afflictions, which burden us while in this tabernacle, should be called light, may to inexperience appear something strange; yet light they are in comparison of the weight of judgment due unto sin's demerit; light in comparison of the unspeakable sorrows actually sustained by our adorable Lord and Saviour; and light in comparison of that vast weight of glory, which God, our Almighty Father, takes occasion by them to work out in our behalf. Nor is it less strange to hear our affliction, which frequently attends us from the cradle to the tomb, represented but as for a moment; yet, when compared with that perpetual felicity so fast approaching, life, though drawn out to the age of Methusalem, sinks into nothing. Yet even this light affliction, which is but for a moment, shall work for us a far—more—exceeding—and eternal weight of glory! Here is a weight of glory, instead of light afflictions! a great weight of glory!—a greater weight of glory!—a far greater weight of glory!—far greater than we can or think of, or in any way deserve!—a far s

glory!! To set forth the sufferings, this eloquent apostle power of language. Farther we must discover the rest! have its perfect work; and let object of your pursuit: it is no ingredients are mingled in your description of Infinite Wisdom, be salutary.

But Death is awful; you know the thoughts of dying. Why have any objection to laying him the hungry beggar to entering house? Death is, indeed porch; but it is the gate of heaven and will not the loving, the lo

make thy Death perfectly safe and salutary, perhaps even desirable and easy. To the saint of God for the most part, the bitterness of Death is past before Death itself arrives ; so that upon its arrival he does not find it to be that terrible and tremendous thing to die which he once apprehended. O my God, vouchsafe me thy sensible presence in my last hour ! then shall I esteem my Death an inestimable benefit, and my last hours the most precious of my temporal life ; and even with my dying breath I will magnify the precious name of Jesus my beloved.

Once more, let me recommend it to you, as you wish to live honorably and die in comfort, to cultivate those tempers and principles that are likely to have your approbation on a death bed. I am either greatly mistaken in respect to the nature of Christianity, or some people of eminent rank in the church of Christ must undergo a very great revolution in the temper and disposition of their minds, before they are to have a comfortable Death ; an angry, a revengeful, an implacable temper, very ill agrees with the genius of the gospel-dispensation, and with our character, as the followers of the meek and lowly Jesus, who, with his dying breath, cried out, " Father, forgive them ; for they know not what they do !" Let this ever be remembered, that it is not a well informed and clear knowledge of gospel truth, which

heart, if heaven, --
mind, are wanting. The one may
you the name ; but it is the other
the nature of a Christian. It has
choly observation, in which I am af-
much justice, that some professors,
for gospel knowledge, are most re-
cient in regard to the spirit of Ch-
think, indeed, that they ought to
those who are less clear in their
ments, or have the unhappiness to
in some favourite article. But what
idea is this likely to give infidels o-
pel itself, as they are glad to la-
blemish in the Christian character
the blessed Gospel with the defect
I ~~freely~~ confess, that if I had no
with some acquaintance with the
-- myself --

desires to promote,
one can yield him peace and compo
ying moments.

There is no way so likely to soften th
nd regulate the passions of man, as to c
acquaintance with death bed solemnities,
keep an eternity in view. It is only
on to this, that we can either think or a
g the Christian. This habit of mind,
it with eternity, has many peculiar ac
mected with it, and is of the greatest u
religious life; such as making af
ich otherwise would seem long and se
ear what they really are; but light
tary, naturally leads us into such an a
with our own personal

the land of his inheritance !

The following little Tract was written from the immediate views of Death, and made very awful impressions on the Author. The mode of it was chosen to make it more entertaining, while the necessary instruction to the mind stands out, notwithstanding, is taken from the experience of those who have fallen under his own observations. It is hoped, that, through the divine truths conveyed in it will produce the same effect in the believing heart. I trust I can be thankful for the accounts I have had of its success, and bless God that any feeble mine should be owned to his people. I have taken fresh pains in preparing a new edition for the press, and what alter-

PREFACE.

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Now, that the Holy-Ghost may attend the reading of "Death, *a vision*" with its special influence, that it may answer the end for which it is now again sent into the world, is, and I trust shall ever be, the Author's prayer. Amen.



DEATH:

A VISION

PART I.

It was about twelve months ago, that my mind, as is but too frequent with me, void of stability, ambled from one theme to another, and for a considerable time, continued its vagary to that degree, that I found myself utterly incapable of fixing my attention on any subject that presented itself, however interesting or important it might seem. At last, an awful subject,—DEATH,—all-conquering DEATH!—presented itself to me; and that not in very desirable manner, but in all the deformities of an implacable enemy to nature. This unwelcome, though important visitant, engrossed my attention in such a manner, that for a fortnight's space I maintained an almost constant intercourse with that awful production of Sin. Throughout the whole length of the day, whether I was in the street, at the table, or taking a turn on the flow-banks of the Severn, my friendly neighbour, I was always employed in viewing the features of that awful countenance; marking, as well as I could, the proportions of his parts, and duly observing the formidable retinue. It was thus I employed myself, while the cheering sun illumined our horizon, and nature rejoiced in his genial rays; Nor

deep, or the visiting slumber brought the
f DEATH along with it. One particula
f my nocturnal conversation with that
illager, I esteem not unworthy of a pub
ing; therefore shall do myself the pleas
ting it.

It happened one night, after I had been
minating through the day on the awful
at when I was in bed I could not com
lf for several hours to rest, but num
ock from eleven till two; so deep was
ession which the exercise of the day ha
my mind. Then it was that I felt the
alarmed imagination; for in one
ought I fancied I beheld the dreadful
proaching me with his open commissio
id, and a resistless dart in the other, wi
intended piercing my reluctant heart,
ed grave close at his heels, yawning
desire for a prey. The man who kn
ent of his own fortitude and the

form of a dragon, wreathing his tremendous
k beneath the feet of a glorious Personage, who
e five overflowing wounds, which he received
the day that haughty DEATH imagined the hea-
dy country was added to his earthly dominions.
eed, well might the insatiable tyrant conceive
h a presumptuous thought, seeing, strange as
ay seem, the Lord, the fountain of life himself,
fallen into his hands; nor did the regardless
aster pay the least deference to his immaculate
son. But well for him it was, that as the Sa-
ir fell, he seized the king of terrors in his most
eous form, and wrenched from him the fatal
g,—the sad repository of all his strength—and
bled him of the least hurtfulness to the chosen
. This holy Conqueror, for reasons known
imself, and profitable to us, was pleased to vis-
ne dwellings of the dead, and, for a season,
nitted himself to the arrest of DEATH. But
third blest morning come,—he shook the dust
n him,—burst the barriers of the tomb,—for-
c the confines of DEATH, and in holy triumph,
forth the poisonous sting, and said, *I have over-*
e DEATH, and him that had the power of
TH!! When I was indulged with this mental
on, I thought that emboldened Nature collected
orce, and advanced to gaze on the expiring
ster. O! thought I, if I could always view
cruel adversary in his stingless condition,
wling at the feet of the wonderful Conqueror,
uld meet him with as little fear as a child
d sport himself with a harmless lamb. But,
I often looked forward with fear, and some-

departure from it,—to have no satisfying
ry made of that world of spirits where **IN**
reigns in triumph, nor of the safety of the
from earth to heaven,—how dismal the car
gloomy, how threatening the prospect! **A**
meditating on these awful subjects, gentle
seized me with its lulling charms, and soon
me into the arms of downy sleep, where I
rest of the night, inactive in body, **DEATH**
imprinted his image upon me.

In the mean while, the more vigilant mi
her usual manner, rambled abroad through
ured space. Mounted on an agile fancy, s
explored the vast meridian from pole to po
changing her course, she winged her fligh
the countries, from the eastern depth to t
dental shore; and, in its rapid journey, m
ful fancy lined out a numerous train of vi
objects: so that now I had work enough
for the residue of the night, in turning ov

boiling pitch. I thought that the fountain flowed apace, and sent forth innumerable streams to every quarter of the globe, in such a plenty, that it diffused itself abroad through every corner of the land, insomuch that every inhabitant was less or more debauched with the polluting matter. Gentlemen in scarlet and lace, and ladies adorned with silver and gold brocades, I beheld smeared with the filth of the fountain. From the high possessor of the royal chair, down to the despised Lazarus, all were polluted, though many of them perceived not the stain. Many of those streams joining in one, composed a river of a prodigious force, which passed through a spacious plain; and multitudes of people of both sexes, high and low, rich and poor, of all denominations and persuasions, young and old, I saw rolling in the filthiness of the stream. Some swimming, others wading; some faster, others slower, down the noisome channel; some sipping, others lapping the foam of the unnatural billows: but all going along with the stream, which, I perceived, disembogued itself on the other side of this world, in "a lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."

In an other place I saw an infinite number of people, old and young, rich and poor; some decked with ornamental embroideries, rich brocades, delightful damasks, &c.; others hardly covered with deforming rags; some with their coaches, landaus, &c.; attended with a numerous retinue; some on horseback, following a pack of hounds; *others running on foot: but all pursuing the same*

rupted pursuit around the ring. Those in coaches, chariots, and landaus, were in the mad procession; those who straddled the horse, were next unto them; and those on foot, hied after them as they could. When I beheld the immense crowd, I could not help admiring what a prize it might be, which prompted them to run with alacrity, and that even within the danger; till at length I espied what are called the pleasures of the flesh, transfigured into immaterial butterflies, a cloud of which danced in an uneven flight around the above named; and within the first rank of the pursuers; and many as straggling flies, mixed themselves with the various ranks of the sag-end of the multitude. The crowd, as I thought, were intent on the giddy flies, ever hoping and ever disappointed.

Sometimes the pursuers got within arms reach of the leading flies, then they

deavours, I conceived to be impracticable : for although the butterflies always kept in view, so subtle were they, they never could be caught ; and yet so alluring was their mazy dance, that the mad pursuers, prompted with hope of attaining, could not be prevailed with to desert the chase, although at every turn, one or more of the company fell into the pit from whence there is no redemption.—

But as the volcano in the centre received those whose race was run, others from the outside joined the ranks, and filled up the space of the persons lost. And thus it was at every turn ; for they were always drawing nearer and nearer to the pit, and thus they continued as long as I beheld them.

In the third place, I saw, in a spacious field, a prodigious number of people, mostly old, or middle-aged, extremely busy, and working upon their hands and knees, for whom I was touched with the tenderest emotions of pity, looking upon them to be in a state of the most abject slavery, but could not, for a time, comprehend the nature of their servitude, being altogether unacquainted with so strange a sort of labour. Their actions seemed much to resemble those of a mole, for their hands and feet, and every other organ, were closely employed ; but their heads, their plodding heads, were principally concerned in the work : and what before I took to be such servile drudgery, I soon learned to be their chief, if not their only pleasure.

O ! with what alacrity did they rout with their heads, mole-like, in the earth, in quest of something ! but what it was, I could not at first comprehend, till after lending a close attention

heart. many of those diligent ge
prostrate before the refulgent hea
dressed it: "Gold! adorable gold
effect of mine own industry! be tho
ed safe in my possession; and I d
good, no other blessing, but thee!
increase upon me! for thou answer
and I can be happy only in the posse
Avaunt, every pilfering rogue! ye p
keep forever at a distance from my
reap the reward of your slothfulne
my gold! continue to rest in these bl
blessed only by thy presence! Inst
ever here take up thy abode; for I v
morning homage, and evening adora
paid to none but thee!" I saw, a
ome of them rout a whole summe
rove very unsuccessful, finding few
ese shining particles of dust: other
uccessful; and, every time they d
arth knew of it.

long, and were very successful in the routing way, having heaped much of that precious dust together; but to their lasting mortification, some cunning neighbour, by a most masterly artifice, got beyond and robbed them of the adored metal.—Others diligently routed both night and day in the earth, and with the utmost care disposed of their increase in some place of safety; but in despite of all their industry and care, they were mortified to the last degree, when they perceived their own children, who played about their knees, and whom they loved above all things next to their gold, had been more dexterous in scattering the heaps abroad, than they themselves in collecting them. Likewise some were there, who by long and incessant fatigue, had the pleasure of gathering much of this yellow dust together; but ere they were aware, while standing in an adoring posture before it, suddenly sunk into the earth, and I saw them no more: but where they went to take their abode, I do not at present determine; only this I saw, their memory was soon forgotten, and the next heir reaped the fruit of their industry. Others there were who, with indefatigable diligence, had got almost enough of this brilliant dust; but ere the fool considered that it was perishable, he had the unspeakable grief of seeing it all swept away by some shower, or burned by some flash of lightning, sent on purpose by the angry Heavens: on which disaster some of them became quite disconsolate, and went mourning even to the grave. Others, of more heroic fortitude, having sustained loss, immediately clapped down on their hands and knees, and went

...near thinking, that a people
bling the mole in its dispositio
might, with a good deal of prop
Human Moles.

But tired with beholding the
this grovelling society, I thought I
to another domain, where I saw a l
top of which transcended the hos
aught I know, as far as they are hi
earth; perhaps many times as far
was built in a pyrimidical form, div
variety of stories, with a kind of wi
the out side, which led from one sto
and you must think that a very dang
seemed, seeing it had no battlements
scendants. On every story were
innacles, or small towers, beauti
with garlands of flowers plumage
f...

ceptre; and, in an inviting posture, she stood on a marble pedestal, with this alluring motto on her escutcheon: "The valiant hero who has courage enough to climb up to me, shall en-
re." O what bustle was here among people of all ranks! striving who could soonest ascend the side of the tower; each striving to possess himself of the place of eminence, without considering the risks to which they were exposed by their aspirations! Often have I seen the contention of the combatants; but never did I see such jockeying as was scarcely any thing but jostling and crossing. Every day, as it were, was to be seen among them. When one ascended a few steps above the vulgar level, he considered himself secure of a place of eminence, but he was often prompted thereto by envy, or some other equally vicious motive, and some other, equally vicious, came up to him, tripped his heels, and precipitated him into the moat that surrounded the tower; for it ought to be observed that this tower was surrounded by a horrible chasm, into which many of those who sought eminence, were plunged with violence, before they were aware of themselves to be in danger, either by jockeying with their opponents, or, even when seated upon the long-desired pinnacle, by some eddy gust bursting from the bosom of the tower, and precipitating them lower than they had been before. However, a few there were, who with indefatigable diligence attained almost the top of the tower, and on the very point of the pinnacles they swaggered, waving arms, and in a contemptuous manner, looked down on the gazing crowd that stood below, each vying with the other in the measure to obtain a smile of their lord.

ne, and many,
oulders they climbed to those seats (
vertheless, so deeply infatuated wer
od below, that they not only wo
ndeur which they themselves ha
m, but stretched their expectations
nation, of receiving some convinci
eir gratitude. But former depress
got, the worthy gentlemen dwelt in
mp, till, in an unhappy hour, a
rst swiftly upon them, and furio
em from their seats of honour.

Some two or three ascended even t
pedestal, where they sat, adorned w
athers, but could hardly be seen of
elow. One thing concerning them
ut think remarkable; sometimes t
ke a lamb; then like a lion or bear
best high upon them

ing majestic youth, in whose countenance was to be seen wisdom and magnanimity written in legible characters: and, with deportment altogether different from those who sat near him, he looked down with an air of affection upon all the ranks below him.

But strange as it may seem, this worthy personage, notwithstanding his merit and elevated station, did not appear to be the most happy man in the world; for it was not difficult to see anxious cares, and perplexing fears, crawling as so many snakes, round the seat of majesty. I thought then that surely the higher a man is in station, he is the more emphatically wretched, unless he can hug the servile chain like the mutable sons of Proteus, or has learned to live above the caprice of fortune. I thought in my dream, that by what means soever any pinnacle threw its rider, or however dirty his fall might be, that no sooner was the place proclaimed empty, than numbers strove who should first vault into it. Here I saw a curate aiming at a vicarage, a vicar at a bishoprick, and a bishop striving for an archiepiscopal see. Here I saw a valet aspiring to the fine gentleman, a baronet aiming at an earldom, and a country squire coveting the direction of the nation. Here I saw also a private sentinel aiming at a halberd, a halbidier at a captain's place, a captain earnestly suing for a regiment, and Prude, my lady's woman, affecting the name of madam. For my own part, when I saw the follies of mankind, I could not help wishing that they were again blessed with the right use of their reasons.

richer variety of perfect colours
cate pencil of Apelles left on the
I walked along, admiring its
with the fragrancy of the full-blown
as oriental gems, richly decorated
plain. Here I beheld the glory of
ator, sparkling in every verdant place
the spreading lawn, in such a manner
could not satisfy the eye. Nor
ear less delighted with the tuneful
ly lark, as ascending she sung praises
her almighty Preserver. Like man
equally fired with a sense of gratitude
bird and thrush, emulous of song
flowing harmony abroad through the
as if scorning to be outdone in praise
mon Parent. Pleased to see them
join in concert with the forest

! they all were made for thine enjoyment!
n are thine invaluable privileges, joined with an
enduring existence, and a capacity fitted for
possessing of an Infinite Good!"

These are blessings peculiar to the state of fa-
red man, and for which only depraved man is
ble of being unthankful. But O! let humani-
lush at the awful consideration; notwithstand-
all our enjoyments, we, only we men, are idle
n universal nature joins in general concert to
k the great Creator's praise! Ungrateful man!

the sun, the moon, and stars, with all the
s of heaven, unceasing move in general con-
, and harmoniously show forth the praises of

! Must the fowls of the air, the beasts of
ield, and all the inhabitants of the waters, be
erned in the enchantment of his manifest glo-

and thou, above all others, most beloved and
indulged, alone remain dumb in the general
ert; worse than dumb, even refractory! The

e, that now glories to prance under thy weight,
vine, which bleeds to satiate thine intemper-
, the people of the feathered nation, whose

carcasses must now indulge thy gluttony,
one day severally appear as the swiftest wit-
es against thee. Thou ingrateful abusers of

y blessings! what will become of thee when
soul is demanded? How wilt thou stand be-
an infinitely holy God? Dreadful thine ac-

t! for God is just, as well as beneficent.
hought in my dream, that as I was thus ru-

ing, I was greatly surprised, by seeing the
er DEATH enter the field, through a breach
sin had made in its fences. He appeared

ed the irresistible scythe ; the mattock and wrought in a field of corruption, with the r
dance of empty shades frisking over it, w
skeleton's flag. Close behind him, almost
ing on his heels, followed a lean ill-looking f
with extended jaws ; at the sight of which
blood chilled in my veins, and my flesh shu
ed with perfect aversion. Nor was this ave
peculiar to me, for I perceived that all Nature
ed to fly fom its presence ; and, indeed,
might Nature tremble at the thoughts of a
counter, for the same hunger-bitten follow
DEATH cast a languishing look on every o
and yawned with desire to devour it.

I thought that DEATH was no sooner er
the field, than this meagre and greedy atte
addressed himself to him, in a craving m
erving "Give ! give !" on which the cruel sk

ourer made no distinction between this and that, but fed with as much delight on the flesh of a beggar as on that of princes and nobles: the celebrated beauty, and the youthful hero, afforded no greater relish to the hungry grave, than the country andlady, or rustic swain: old and young, beautiful and unseemly, rich and poor, noble and ignoble, were confusedly jumbled together in its insatiable entails.

At a very small distance from this king of terrors, followed a tall, upright personage, of the exactest symmetry in all parts; her mien was noble, and all her gestures uniform. This royal and majestic person sat on the seat of right judgment, held a pair of equal balances in her hand, and had for her motto, "I judge according to every man's works." I thought that this upright lady, who was in herself the most perfect beauty, invested DEATH with dreadful array, and equipped him in most of his terrors; as every human creature who fell a prey to the ravager, was immediately weighed in her impartial balances. O! said I, on seeing the procession, if weighed in these equal and impartial balances, who is he that shall not be found wanting!

Last of all, in the train of the skeleton, followed a monster of devilish birth, and of such a form as I had never seen before: it kept its eye, as I thought, continually fixed on the upright lady, whose name was Justice, making inquisition for blood. To this monster was given every person whose actions did not weigh according to the rules of the sanctuary; and they were all stored in;

moment of its being. Then I thought
ing, DEATH and HELL are never satisfi

I stood a considerable time, admiring
ness of the scene, and soon I discovered
more; for DEATH metamorphosed him
dragon of an enormous size, and appro
the place where I had taken my stan
servation. Fearful lest I should be t
which he aimed, I began to think of
resistance, as I could not reconcile m
thoughts of the grave; nor was I cert
time, that I should escape hell, if he
Up he came within a very small dist
which greatly roused my apprehension;
but to my unspeakable joy, he turne
left, followed by his dreadful retinue;
ing my eye to that side of the field, I s
ered the prey at which he aimed. A
lady, in all the grandeur of life, decke
richest silks, adorned with gold, pea

th, but maintained their jollity with as much
 ht as if DEATH had never been born. Touch-
 ith pity, I waved my hand to awake their at-
 on, and entreated them to beware of yonder
 n: but at that instant I beheld a god, who is
 o be president over this world, raise a dust,
 pread a mist before their eyes, so that they
 not discern the parts of the destroyer, there-
 hey rejected my admonitions, scorned my fa-
 and bid me begone for a prating fool. But,
 g their imminent danger, and moved with
 rn for them, I disregarded their clamorous
 ies, hardened my countenance against shame
 tied up my voice higher and higher, using
 arguments to persuade them that the mon-
 EATH was even then at hand, to devour one
 re of them, but all in vain! for they would
 e none of my admonitions, and mocked at
 alous concern. At last, unhappy moment!
 exorable Tyrant came up with them, and
 orked talons seized my lady in the midst of
 ularity. But O how would it have shock-
 d, to see the consternation she was in, when
 st perceived herself envenomed by his poi-
 sting! Convinced that her time in this
 was just at an end, and to the last degree
 ing to venture into a new state of existence,
 ch unknown to the best of men, and the
 of those who are ignorant of God, O what
 she not have given for a short reprieve!
 did criminal at the bar endure such horror
 the awful judge denounced the tremendous
 e. *as this wretched lady felt on the dismal*

... circumstance
would have given up the beloved pleasures of plays, operas, and dancing assemblies. But, no bribe, nor promises of future amendment, turn aside the resistless arrow, or procure the gay delinquent the shortest respite.

She implored the aid of her skilful physician, attended by the faithful apothecary ; yea, a whole troop of the faculty were summoned to exert all their wisdom, by any means to resist the fury of the inexorable Tyrant ; but all in vain. sad experience proved, that no medicine, however skilfully prepared, is a sufficient antidote against the poison of DEATH's cankered sting ; therefore the lady, however reluctant, was forced to submit to the Monarch of terrors.

Lest the length of my dream should render it tedious to my readers, if told at once, I shall divide it into several parts, and shall stop here for the first time.

PART II.

Having had a full view of all that passed between DEATH and the lady, I could not forbear reflecting on the folly of inconsiderate mortals, who are every hour, for aught they know, exposed to DEATH; and yet live altogether strangers to a certain and approaching eternity. It is awful, indeed, to banish the thoughts of futurity from the mind, and assiduously bury every serious reflection in the moat of sensuality; to rush from one profane delight to another, till unwelcome DEATH puts an end to our career, and serves us as he did the unhappy lady: O what profit is there, said I, in separating less or more time, every day, for intimate fellowship with DEATH! In all probability, when grace is given so to do, our conflict with that merciless Tyrant is far from being so terribly dreadful. It is true, I profess but a very small acquaintance with men and things, yet I cannot but conjecture, that one reason why this lady and her acquaintance so utterly detested discourses concerning DEATH, might be, because such discourses naturally tend to strip the pleasures of the flesh of all their imaginary charms. Then, said I again, O blessed, discriminately blessed of the Lord, are they, whose exalted pleasures can consist with the *most intimate acquaintance and fellowship with DEATH!* They, and only they, are fit to enter the *lists with that formidable enemy, who can in-*

SHED HIS BUSINESS . . .

elf from the appearance of a dragon into the
ness of a grave and not uncomely pers
clothed in a long flowing white robe, whic
ll his native deformities. Thus equipped,
ected his course towards me, which once
out me into a panick, lest I should be the d
prey, notwithstanding he was not now so t
as before ; but as the all-directing Power or
t, he passed by me, his rout now lying
right. My attention being wholly engros
the achievements of that terrible hero, I turn
eye after him, and at no great distance be
man of a middle age, and an upright mien, to
he marched with all possible speed. No
was this good man apprised of his approach
with a becoming serenity of countenance I
forth to meet him, and thus addressed him :
in the blessed of the Lord, for I long to

thanks, be to God, who hath given me, even me, the victory through my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

Is this DEATH? said I: DEATH, who of late was so cruel, when he had to deal with a person of a different turn of mind. Call him no more the Monarch of terrors! Yes, I will still give him that name, for it is essential to his very nature. If at any time, to any one he be propitious and gentle, impute it not to any compassion in him, but to the blood, the precious, the atoning blood of the Redeemer: that blood, whose attractive virtue has drawn the poison, even from the King of Terrors; malignant to all, save those whose hearts and consciences by the divine Spirit are sprinkled therewith.

However, I could not help thinking, that there was something in the case of this good man, as remarkably to be desired, as that of the lady was dreadful; and I could then say, with Balaam, (I trust from a better spirit,) "Let me die the death of the righteous, and my latter end be like his."

DEATH, having released from the clayey tabernacle the waiting spirit of this sanctified disciple, changed himself a second time into the appearance of a dragon, whetted his sting, and put on all his formidable terrors; in which equipment he bent his course towards a magnificent palace, which stood at some distance on a delightful plain.—*With timorous heart and careful steps, I followed as near as I might with safety, and attentively watched, to see what the next execution would be.* At this time there happened to be a ba

banished, and was
tuousness and dissipation. As the
pleasure intently pursued with jovial
sical mazes of the dance, invisible Di
among them, and grinned ghastly up
mattentive to the enemy's approach
vered in jocularly, till he cruelly
hearta of two of the company, in wh
ted venom rankled, so as to preven
ing a future merry meeting. I trem
lest the rest of the company should
afterwards understood that DEATH,
he is, always mindeth the contents
sion, without which he never appea
dane coast ; but carries it along with
er he goes, and never seizeth any b
names and places of abode are sp
so that he is liable to no mistake,
charged with in the case of the two
I was not a little diverted at the
whom I heard crying

should give occasion to people of a censorious spirit to charge me with oversleeping my time ; but what I saw, filled me with uncommon concern for my fellow-creatures who were under the arrest of DEATH before they were aware ; hurried from the stage of action, before they well knew themselves to be mortal. Grieved to see the thoughtless stupidity of blinded mortals, and the unretarded havoc made of them by merciless Death, I cried out, in bitterness of soul, "O that they were wise, and understood this ! O that they would consider their latter end !"

As I was thus breathing forth desires after the happiness of my contemporaries, a venerable personage approached, and accosted me thus : "Young man, I perceive that the visible destruction brought upon mankind, hath filled your heart with honest concern ; you mourn to them, but they will not ament ; you pipe unto them but they will not lance : rather for your pains they will laugh you to scorn, and bait you under the ridiculous name of Fanatick. Mankind, prone to sensual pleasures, and enslaved to fleshly lusts, will not, cannot bear your serious admonitions : but if you please to go along with me, I will show you somewhat of the various forms of death, as it is met with by saints and sinners ; which discovery, if attended with the livine blessing, may be of great advantage to you all the days of your life."

Being naturally of an inquisitive mind, I readily embraced the offered favour, gratefully thanked the gentleman, and pleased myself with the hope of seeing much of the monster Death, with wh

less Tyrant. The lady, said he, inquire, was named Teresa, the daughter of a wealthy gentleman and lady in her childhood. She was blessed with a person elegant and pleasing; her countenance the most agreeable softness, and her eyes even vied with the feathers of the peacock; her shape was faultless in the most discerning, in every part fit for the most perfect symmetry.

Thus accomplished, she was taken to her cradle, to value herself upon her beauty and docility; and her fond and foolish parents, by her vanity by all that their dotage could suggest, no care nor expense was thought of, to render her education perfectly polite, and to improve the graces of her frame to the best advantage. A little or no more.

ere we leave her in a state forever unalterable, go over to yonder building, to see what may be earned there.

His said, he conducted me through the spas meadow, towards a magnificent building of most curious architecture, erected on four rows of columns, partly of the Corinthian, and partly of the Ionic order, in one corner of the enamelled park; which place we entered without formality, my guide leading the way. He was now pleased to take me by the hand, and lead me into a chamber where were several persons of both sexes, attending a sick man who lay in dreadful distress on a bed of sorrow: he was, to all appearance, near the expiring moment: every one waited for the last convulsive throes. My guide having by some wisdom peculiar to himself, rendered himself both invisible, unperceived either by him or his attendants, we went up close to his bedside. He started; he stared; and his eyes rolled most wildly in his head, as if they had followed some terrible apparition, suddenly traversing the chamber: then he was seized with convulsive agitations which distorted every one of his feeble organs.

In this strange confusion of mind and distress of body, he vehemently struck with his hands and feet, as if environed with deadly enemies, from whom he desired an asylum of safety. With an eye sanguine beyond conception, he looked on those who attended at his bedside, and would have said, "O that you could help me in my last difficulties! Ye were the pleasures and assistants of my former pleasures;



breast, before I had begun my

I thought in my dream that a neighbor came in, with a design to assist a man in his last extremity: he proposed, for the distressed delinquent, to grow anguished, and could not encourage prayers or conversation. The minister procured what assistance could be procured by all possible means to the success of the ghostly destroyer: but his ease was beyond the power of physicians. His trembling heart beat thick with blood, found not room sufficient for fair play in the chest, while the rank venom of the serpent shot through his bowels like a bullet, and drank up the streams of life: yet, for his relief, they poured the physick

floods of tears; while mad with despair, he tugs eagerly for life, and in dying rage clinches what comes next to hand. O my soul! sure it is a solemn thing to die! and tremendous! to die in despair, how dreadful! Even his little children forgot to play, and learned to be serious. In a chamber adjacent to that of their dying father, they looked wishfully on each other, and gave vent to their infant sorrows. I could not stand the mournful sight, without mingling my tears with theirs. My guide, perceiving the impression which the affecting scene had made upon me, rebuked me with a want of resolution, in being so lepressed before one half of the scene was unfolded; and I, sensible of my defect, submissively yielded to the reproof of my wise superiour. I thought, that, pleased with my submission, he opened a box of invaluable ointment, and there-with anointed my eyes, whereby they were so much strengthened, that I could readily see things which in themselves are altogether invisible to the unassisted natural eye. Then it was I soon perceived that those convulsive pangs, distorted features, rolling eyes, wild and distracted looks, &c. were not merely the effects of nature struggling with the growing disease, but proceeded mostly from a mental cause. A fearful avenue was opened before him, leading into a dreadful eternity! at the not-far-distant end of which avenue, he beheld the tremendous reward of all his ungodliness! *this, this* it was which caused such perturbation in his distracted mind; *this* it was which made death so terribly dreadful to him; and *this* it

HYPERBORE. THE GRIEVOUS SICK, is
ble a prospect before her, shrou
lowest caverns of the heart, as it
self from the researches of Deat
approaching to dislodge her, and
shocked Nature, to repel the p
destroyer. But soon, very soo
ture, having exhausted her stren
helpless inactivity; then the frig
ing herself deserted by her w
half persuaded to yield the do
quitted her interior lurking-plac
she passed through the lanes o
the pale quivering lips, where s
at the direful event. I thought
priety of those verses of the cele

“Death! ’tis a melancholy c

fled, resumed her possession of the interior regions, roused up the residue of Nature, fled to every avenue, and wildly shrieked for help; but all in vain her unequal resistance, for Death, like a staunch murderer, stood firm to his purpose, and closely pursued her through all the lanes of life, till he drove her out of the confines of mortality: at last the fatal moment came, vanquished Nature laid down her arms, the weary heart forbode to throb, and Death displayed the trophies of victory all around!

Death having broke through all the redoubts of desolated Nature, the dismayed ghost, now forced forth from her wonted dwelling, remained in a defenceless condition, exposed to the insults of merciless fiends, destitute of an asylum. Unhappy spectre! as soon as she arrived at the pale portal of the lifeless lips, she began to seek for a place of refuge: she looked up towards heaven, but dreadful was the prospect, for she beheld an incensed God loosing his engines, and beginning to play his flaming indignation upon her! To shun this inevitable evil, she looked downward, but equally terrible was her prospect there: with consummate horror she beheld the yawning jaws of intolerable hell extended wide to receive her! There being now no flying from the envioning evils, the swift messenger of destruction seized, shouldered, and bore her away to appear before the judgment-seat of injured and incensed justice, where she receives *the fearful, the irrevocable sentence, "Depart from me, thou cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels!"* But oh! n

I thought in my dream, that almost dead with surprise and fervent guide imparted to me a counsel infinitely more valuable than all Indies, by which I was much relieved. Some time I addressed him thus

Oh ! Sir, what have I heard ! Surely this man must have been awfully wicked, and uncommon sinful in his latter end so terrible.

To which the venerable gentleman answered, You may be assured, young man, that his judgments are just, and that he is perfectly righteous ; and if this man had never, his final sentence had not been so severe. That he has seen and heard. That he is certain ; but that he was greatly affected will not affirm : as there is too r

Conscience, especially
breaking in sin: those p
d extorted from him many promises and
olutions of amendment, and often-times
on his knees in the closet, as well as to
ance on publick worship frequently on
ath-day.

ou will not think it strange, I suppose, if
that by his attendance on the word preac
ter with his converse with religious peo
tained a good degree of speculative kno
both of the law and Gospel. This m
ok on himself as a converted person, r
nding he possessed not one desire after
eansing power of religion; but, amidst
ensions, allowed himself in secret sin, an
ften his sins were obvious enough to b
As his religion was
sons need-

~~the~~ soul! says one, he was
atured man as ever lived.—Ay, that he v
second; and as good a husband as an
world, and minded that which was goo
ough, to be sure, poor man, he was not
s failings; but the best have their failings
he. Very true says a third; God help
e frail creatures: Poor man! it is well
t he has got safe out of this troublesome
is better for them that are dead than for
alive: to be sure, he is the happiest of
us they reasoned, and occasionally threw
ations in regard to the order of the funer
turned to my guide, with amazement
tenance, and stared him full in the face
h he stopped me short, before I had ti
k, and thus it was that he addressed
ese people.

OF THIS MAN UNDER THE NAME AND CHA-
 er, to the dust, in a sure and certain
 sed resurrection with the just, not
 is forever separated from them ; ar
 you, that such are the ecclesiastica
 of some nations, that was not the
 bury him, it might cost him no les
 tion from his sacred office.*

*I have often thought it a very great hardi-
 tious ministers of the church of England, t
 burying of the dead, they are tied to use it
 over the greatest of saints and the vilest of s
 be a heavy burden to an honest, intelligent m
 admirably adapted to the burial of a saint,
 degree preposterously false and absurd, whe
 ment of a wicked man, who dies impenitent

“ For as much as it hath pleased Almighty
 mercy to take unto himself the soul of our
 departed. ”—This is true of the departed sai
 propriety can it be said of a wicked man, tha

~~Wicked~~ wicked. should
for I have somewhat
wicked have no bands in their d
not troubled as other men. To which
ed, Yes, young man, you have so read
e read your Bible; but you must kn
or Contumacio was thoroughly awake
se of his wrath, on account of his sin
appeared to him worse than so many
sts, or hideous spectres, which made h
saw, so terribly alarmed when the invi
ston approached, and presented the po
envenomed shaft. A world, ten thou
ls, would he have given, could he for
been told how to evade the fatal thrust.
roke not to be evaded, he was obliged to
but, oh! may you never know such a

great disorder of mind

IN this unhappy man's case, I am of opinion, that she will
this awful providence while she has
ued in being. Believe me, Jehovah
in the deep waters, and by far more
the paths of the whirlwind. The
reign Householder, hath an indis-
he sees meet, to burn his wood
with their ashes he may brighter
gold and silver. Now you have
and his end; come along with me
scene shall be unfolded.

PART III.

I thought in my dream, that according to my directions, I followed my guide through the various rooms in this stately mansion, till we arrived at a study or library, where was an old gentleman sitting at a table, writing his last will and testament. He looked up at me, and delivered the deed; and then with the greatest vivacity proceeded to relate the particulars of his life, seemingly extremely fitted for the recapitulation.

He willed his children to follow his example, and the better to encourage them to such a course, he told them, that it was but a small fortune, which he and their mother possessed at their first entrance on the marriage-state; and that by their diligence and frugality they had

gry with that wicked practice in others was drunk, but always detested that wasteful sin ; nor, as I remember, did I lie ; but have always minded my duty tending at church and sacrament duty ; : I sinned at any time, I was careful to mercy, was sorry for it, and confessed who is merciful, and will, I hope, pardon ties to which we are all subject. If at : sinned, it was not with a wicked design thank God, I have always had a good meant well in what I did ; and it were to disbelieve in the mercy of God. I seeing I have always believed in Christ, gent in providing for my family, have husbanded what I got by my business been mindful of my duty to God, I have reason to fear but it will be well with

opinion, by overhearing the eldest son, when the father said, "In all probability, I cannot recover," to whisper secretly to himself, "I hope you cannot :—" and when the old man said he had settled every thing to his children's satisfaction, the son whispered again, "Ay, if you would make quick work of dying!" I then thought how foolish it is in those parents who snatch at every opportunity of amassing wealth for their children, seeing that thereby they are so far from gaining their love and esteem, that they become impatient for their death, in order to be possessed of their substance.

In the mean-while, the visitants of the old gentleman comforted him against the fear of death, by putting him often in mind of his life so well spent; which will, said they, no doubt, make you a happy man, as soon as you are delivered from this afflicted body.

Notwithstanding I was greatly surprised at the ingratitude of young Phylargyrus, in wishing the death of his father, I could not help being well pleased with the disposition of the old gentleman's affairs; and turning to my guide, with satisfaction visible on my countenance, I said:

Ah, sir! what a happiness is it to be rich in good works! O with what pleasure may this man die, when he looks back, and takes a view of a life spent to such great advantage! How vast is the difference between this and the other man's estate! Contumacio went distracted to hell; but *Avaro* will, doubtless, go joyfully to heaven the next moment after his dissolution.

To which my guide replied, I see, Novitio, yo

which you so much admire.

By this time, I thought that old Ava
apace, and ever-watchful Death, who
his bed, imposed a fatal weight on hi
heart; a dark mist beclouded his heav
a cold dew rested clammy on his foreh
every pulse was expected to beat a f
there yet remained a few sands in the
of his glass, he recovered a little, and,
time he said: I thought I should hav
more, but I have yet time to bid yo
farewell, my dear children! I must g
of nature; but my peace is made wit
die comfortable! This said, his h
his eyes became fixed, and all the
immediate death were upon him.

It was now that my venerable gu
mind well who were in the chamber

will easily believe, that I now began to my opinion of Avaro, having seen who his silent attendants. The moment of separation, the beguiled soul took a kind farewell of her body, and came forth from the interior smiling with hopes of the divine reward; soon as she ascended to the lifeless lips, and looked around to espy her tutelar angel; but to her was her astonishment, when she perceived there was no guardian near, to bear her in safety, but a train of relentless furies, to carry her to their dark abode! With error she turned about, and strove to recover her former possessions; but now, alas! the portals of mortality were shut, and the body refused its former tenant. The sly seducers, as merciless tigers, leaped upon and seized her in the midst of her horror and distraction. One cannot conceive, what pen can describe, the distraction of the dismayed spectre, who found herself shackled by those cruel spirits! A faint description thereof would stoutest heart to tremble, and the ruddiness to gather blackness. The sly seducer who attended him incognito, during life, was as quiet as possible till the deceived ghost was dislodged, and then they assumed their infernal forms and tyranny; seized and bore her away, notwithstanding she strove with inexpressible struggles. How dreadful must the disappointment of the hypocrite, who in his life time feeds up his vain hope of a hypocrite, and builds

fable joys of the righteous at death, he is
tately plunged into the gulf of never-en-
guish !

It was now I began to understand the
of such sayings as these: "The hope of
ocrite shall perish: they look for peace
hold evil cometh," &c.

Astonished at the event, I turned hastily
guide, and asked him how it came to pass
man of so many good works, should at
come a prey to devouring flames. Sir, say
is it? Can it possibly be consistent with the
ness and equity of God? To which, the
gentleman meekly replied:

I tell you, Novitio, you must not, from
you have seen, infer that the ways of the
unequal, and that he disposeth of his
unjustly. For all the good works of which

a living faith in Christ, and a principle of love to God. He had, indeed, some slight acquaintance with the external forms of religion, but was wholly a stranger to its heart-cleansing and world-overcoming power; but however clean he had made the outside of the cup and platter, being inwardly full of ungodliness and error, he was unmeet for, and consequently, could not possess a dwelling in the Holy of holies. Avaro, while alive, was one of those deceived people who esteem gain to be godliness: his whole life was spent to the end of getting; and being successful therein, he valued himself far above others, fondly alledging, that all his increase was owing to his own industry: and if at any time, he thought of Divine Providence, he imagined that his worldly prosperity was an evidence of his enjoying the favour of the Almighty. As to his religion, he seldom omitted going to church twice on the Lord's-day; and since he was old, and unfit for business, once almost every day, by which he thought he merited greatly at the hand of God; and was the more confirmed in his opinion, inasmuch as some of his neighbours did not attend on public worship once in a month.

When at any time he gave a small part of his substance to feed the hungry or clothe the naked, it was generally to wipe away the score of sin from his conscience, or to prevent his being thought a covetous person; for this was a scandal which he could not endure, but looked upon his carefulness as an excellent virtue. Yea, so ignorant was he of the pure and spiritual law of God, that he expected to be rewarded for the gathering to

be called their own, and who, to make am-
ment for their having withheld more than i
bequeath sums of money for the use of
edifices at their death. Strange infatua-
think the defrauding of the legal heir can be
table to the infinitely holy God ; or in a
stamp a reputation upon the character of
While Avaro lived, there was none in the
bourhood more successful than him ; but h
he succeeded in his former enterprises, he
fully disappointed in death ; for now the
cast, his loss is irrecoverable, and his af-
are beyond a remedy ! Believe me, youn
continued Veratio, all disappointments, los-
crosses, which can possibly happen in life,
finitely rather to be chosen, than that w
successful Pharisee meets with at his death

I was exceedingly shocked at the fearfu

out a life
me away to a third
stately fabrick where another distress
is unfolded. The unhappy Securus
man of about twenty-one years of age,
was here; but his term, alas! ap-
proach'd near an end, being almost spent in a
man: yet, unhappy youth, he could not
be told that he was a dying man. His
friends did what they could to pre-
vent any thoughts of Death and a futu-
re basely and sinfully flattering him with
recovery, notwithstanding they evidently
saw without a miracle being wrought, his
end inevitable.
She told him, that she knew a certain
man had been as bad, if not worse, than
he then; but was now happily recover'd
as well as ever.

Miserable relations! Unprofitable and friends, whose very friendship is the most cruel cruelty! Is it not enough that he has a life of unremitted rebellion against you must study to get him out of the power of it? Wretched ministers of Satan, are ye all! O my God, let me ever be preserved from the fatal influence of soothing flattery.

This said, my guide addressed me in the following manner: This is young Securus, a tall youth, accustomed to put the devil to flight, minding only the present time; for when he opened, as sometimes it did, that the throne of Death encroached on his mind, he lulled his conscience to quietness, by promising to repent his sins, and amend his ways hereafter, when he was old, and had enjoyed the pleasures of life.

...last he will be convi
...ments of hell are insupportable, an
...r-ending duration, though he disregarded
...reatning thereof denounced in the sacred

in Securus, while in health and prosper
ed at the timidity of those who had any d
ending a holy and terrible God; and acco
ligion to be nothing else but whining hy
but, ere long, he will feel, to his sorro
e wrath of a sin-avenging God is, inde
ing to be afraid of, and that religion is re
t chimerical.

health, he accounted the lives of the religio
adness, and their latter end without honou
ved; and now his insolence in basely coi
the ways and people of the Lord, hat
n that stupefaction of mind

Can a man stand at the entrance of
there concert, the schemes of ear
Having his feet on the threshold
perdition, can he yet believe himself
security and rest? Who could
without peculiar demonstration, that
overspreads the mind of a rational be
cause him to look on his body as
when in the chilling embraces of des
But so it is, through thy prevalen
loathsome of every nature! By th
overwhelms the human race, thou fi
innumerable evils! O let me fore
discriminating grace of the great I
who, by the special influences of th
it, hath realized sin to me in all its h
ties and dreadful consequences; ha
once stupified and benumbed consci

departed this life ; and said, 'thoughtless he lived, and thoughtless he died ; but now he is thoughtful enough ! Believe me, Novitio, he hath already thought more of hell, sin, and rebellion, than ever he did in all his life. Look you, Novitio, to yonder dark lake of fire and brimstone, where he is already plunged, undergoing the unknown tortures of the second death. And now he hath a never-ending eternity before him to think of what is past, and what is future. Unhappy is he who is thoughtless in life, and unprovided for in death, like the wretched Securus ! A pompous funeral is, indeed, designed him ; but, alas ! what pleasure can lifeless clay or a tormented ghost take in funeral pomp, or the crocodile tears of the mercenary mourner ? But let us leave his relicks to endure that honour designed to be imposed upon them, and let you and I see what farther discoveries we can make.

O, Sir, said I, what dreadful scenes you unfold ! Is this, Veratio, the portraiture of unmasked death ? Do all my fellow-creatures die thus miserable ? And is there no such thing as comfortable Death to be seen ? O, Sir, my very flesh shudders at these awful discoveries.

My guide replied : Know, young man, that sorrow is antecedent to joy, grief before consolation, darkness before light, and humility before honour. Shrink not back, when the cup of bitterness kisseth your lips, seeing it is preparative to the cup of salvation. But if Novitio trembles to see such horrible appearances of Death, only think what they must feel, who endure them ! However cor

mean I shall discover what you mean
with their latter end. In the meanwh
tend the disconsolate Letitia, in her d
nies.

'This said, he led me away to a magn
ment, decorated with all the producti
In this apartment, brilliant as it was,
dy whom all the riches of the East co
happy ; she lay on a bed of down, sur
hangings of damask, it is true, but fo
rest than if she had lain on a flinty ro
under the power of an inveterate mal
been so for several years ; but greatly
unto, by murmuring at, and repining
flictive dispensation. She seemed
about thirty-five years of age, and h
seemed of a goodly measure of extern
fore it was blasted by this inveterate

...and with t
...ness of life. You may n
of it now, for you have all the genteel am
to yourselves. As for me, I know not v
have committed more than others, th
be imprisoned in this solitary place, to
uch racking pains as I do. I hear of ma
have lived far more liberal than ever I c
ill continue to enjoy all the pleasures wh
town or country can afford; but I must
in this irksome bed, and nobody knows wh
be able to go abroad, so much as to take
or to see one friend or another. I empl
t physician in the country; but how it is,
ot, he can cure others, but all his prescri
em to be lost on me."
s thus she entertained her friends, and th
lered herself disagreeable to --

.....
Holy Ghost, no regard would be paid a tribunal to her elevated station in life those in every nation who fear God, righteousness, shall be saved ; for the Lord said he, is no respecter of persons.

By this seasonable advice and salutation, the good Philantropos incurred her displeasure so far, that she could never fully receive a visit from him, but was often and out of temper in his company.

The venerable Veratio turned him: and thus he said : Letitia was a fine girl a descendant of a right honourable and family, genteel and handsome in the girl person, and by her birth entitled to an estate. Her noble parents, with all imaginable indulgence, from her earliest days, indulged her to the last degree : they never cared to cross her

ced wife, she abated nothing of the pleasures to which she had devoted herself, but added very considerably thereunto, by receiving and returning many useless and unprofitable visits, until the fatal time on which she was seized by this malignant evil, which is, indeed, the forerunner of her death; and then she was out of temper with every body who came near her. Husband, children, and servants, all shared in her anger. Letitia's beauty was esteemed more than eastern pearls: she vainly imagined that the diamond lost its brilliance, when her eye deigned to glance upon it; the damask rose its liveliness, when compared to her lively cheek, and the coral she supposed to yield to her all its perfections, and own itself outdone, when her mellifluous and pleasant lips were unmasked: but poignant pain and frequent sickness, greatly impairing her adored beauty, surprisingly added to her affliction. So long as her strength would admit, she was wont to try her features in the looking-glass oftener than once a day; but how the faithful mirror was charged with falsehood, and bore the weight of her indignation, is not worth your while to hear, nor mine to relate.

O, Sir, said I, methinks that on all our looking-glasses, this motto, "Memento Mori," ought to be written, and a Death's head fixed on the top of every frame; for even beauties, who delight to gaze upon looking-glasses, meet with no reprieve from Death.

That son of Melpomene, who so judiciously hath drawn the portraiture of the Grave, represents beauty as not one whit more grateful to the

. Time steals so softly o'er the stripling heart,
 And gives it a new pulse unknown before !
 The grave discredits thee : thy charms expung'd,
 Thy roses faded, and thy lillies soil'd
 What hast thou now to boast of ? Will thy lovers
 Flock round thee now to gaze and do thee homage
 Methinks I see thee with thy head low laid,
 Whilst surfeited upon thy damask cheek,
 The high-fed worms in lazy volumes roll'd,
 Riot unscar'd. For this was all thy caution !
 For this thy painful labours at the glass
 T' improve these charms, and keep them in repair
 For which the spoiler thanks thee not ! Foul feed
 Coarse fare, and carrion, please thee full as well,
 And leave as keen a relish on the sense.

According to the doctrine of this solemn
 sir, every timet hatt he beautiful lady tries h
 ces in the glass, she should reflect how the
 will one day burrow in her cheeks, and he
 become the nauseous habitation of loathsor
 sects; that she will then be on a level with

curable. Full of pain
happy lady; but she languishes
in murmuring and repining at the sad
n, and envying the happiness of other
y guide finishing here, I thought in my
her physician entered the chamber, and
ady's pulse, she asked him if he thought
any hopes of her recovery. The doctor
," I am afraid, madam, there is not."
fell into a fit of visible discontent, and said
d many things against the ways of the
y; and continued to the last charging
inequality:

time of her departure being come, I
sights: her life being spent in gaiety
s, her latter end was without honour
er was the unhappy soul drove forth
delicate body, now the venerable

against thee, and hath prospered
ring Pharaoh say, "Who is the Lo
obey him?" thou hast a Red Sea, i
his hosts shall be drowned. If a
chadnezar say in his heart, "This i
which I have built for the house c
'and for the glory of my majesty,'
beast shall be given to him, and h
like the oxen in the field. And i
ting lady should spend her life i
transitory pleasures, the sequel she
has been dead to God, while she l

Then turning to my guide, I s
sir, that DEATH is no respecter of
eth no distinctions, can neither be
ed by entreaty, much less can be r
er. No, no, replied Veratio, D
entreated, is an utter enemy to me
fect stranger to distinctions: the
and the rustick peasant, the noble

other heaven besides the vain and fantastick pleasures of life, little considering, that, ere long, they must bid adieu to sublunary enjoyments, and the most high God hath fixed it as an invariable maxim, that the desire after, must precede the enjoyment of heaven; hence, no desire after the future enjoyment of God being possessed in this life, it is not rationally to be expected, that they can enter into the celestial felicity at their death.

These earthly gods, continued Veratio, are much dissatisfied, if they receive not a great degree of homage from their inferiours in life; but, believe me, nothing is more common than for them at death to stand trembling under the force of self-conviction, before the judgment-seat of the King of kings, who hath declared himself to be no respecter of persons.

Then, said I, woe is me for my fellow-creatures! into what destruction has sin involved them! How few, alas! are they who know the things which make their eternal peace, before they are forever hid from their eyes! Unhappy, most emphatically unhappy, indeed, are they, whose only heaven consists of glittering dust, and whose bliss is composed of the empty honours and wretched pleasures of this seducing and bewitching world. Let honours in the highest degree be imposed upon me, and let me enjoy all that men call happiness,—what will it profit, if my soul must be banished, forever banished, from the amiable presence of my God? Can these, Veratio, ever be deemed an ample compensation for the loss of God, in his divine excellencies and glorious subsistencies?

which worldlings so much admire !

PART. IV.

HAVING thus spoken, I thought my guide, the good Veratio, led me from this to another apartment in the opposite side of the stately building; and as we entered the apartment, I heard a person with a mournful tone of voice, thus express himself: "Few and evil have been the days of the years of my pilgrimage; a few days and full of sorrow." What is the meaning of this? said I; this is a strange kind of saying. To which he replied, "You will understand this better hereafter."

When we entered the chamber, I saw a grave man of advanced years, who seemed to be in great distress both of body and mind; and thus he addressed some of his friends, who, it seems, had been endeavouring to comfort and strengthen him in the prospect of dissolution.

O my friends, you little know what a sinner I have been! let sinners of the highest rank be thought of, and I assure you I am worse than all; yea, I am the very chief of sinners, the vilest and most unworthy creature in the world, Oh! how justly doth the Lord afflict me now! he leaves me not comfortless in my last trials without dreadful provocations; such provocations as makes my very heart bleed to think of them: justly, alas!

I left to the scourge of an evil conscience, and be an instance of the terrible displeasure of an angry God! O what innumera-
cies have

ect, but to be forever banished from the
him whose goodness I have so grossly
ed against whom I have most ungratefully
ed. I tremble to think of enduring
e; but, if I must endure it, I know
ert, and in my condemnation I will
ghteous; for I, only I, have destroyed

Here he was stopped by excessive
ented itself in a flood of tears, and
iends, who sat by him, thus replied
iend, I am exceedingly surprised to
ach heavy accusations against you
harge yourself with the worst and basest
whereas all we, your friends and acquaintance
who have been witnesses of your conversion
y convinced, that ever since you man-
ion of religion, your whole conversation
een unblameable, and becoming true

To which the sick man replied: 'It
t is that—it is that which grieves me

formerly, I flattered myself that I was one of the Lord's people; but now the disguise is taken off, and I am convinced that I have been, and still am, an enemy to all real righteousness, an utter stranger to the heart-purifying religion of the holy Jesus.

Oh! it grieves me to think how I have imposed upon the church of Christ, where I have been only an intruder, a vile tare growing up among the Lord's wheat, a filthy goat among the innocent sheep of the Redeemer! but now it is my greatest fear that I shall be forever separated from both him and them.

Here he was again stopped by the anguish of his spirit, and, after a few minutes, another friend of his, in a spiritual manner, replied: My dear brother, this is only a temptation of the enemy; and such, I trust, ere long you will find it to be. It hath pleased the Lord to withdraw from you for a moment, and for holy ends, to leave you to the buffetings of Satan; but, believe me, believe God himself, he will return with mercy and salvation, and with everlasting loving-kindness he will gather you. What though your sins are great, the merit of the Redeemer's sacrifice is infinitely greater; what though the cry of them reach even to the heavens, his precious atonement surmounts them all; yea, although they are of a scarlet crimson stain, the blood of Jesus, the Son of God, shall wash you, and make you white as wool, or the whiter snow. Satan is, indeed, permitted, as the accuser of the brethren, to load your conscience with heavy accusations; but, yet a very little

ous promises which are made to the spirit, the weary and heavy laden, the cap-
tured sinner, the hungry and
thirsty, the mourner for sin," &c. these
names and characters of the Redeemer's
and all these meet together in my brother
and sister, though not to yourself, an evidence
of your adoption, by grace, into the elect
covenant. Had he not loved you, he would never have
set his own seal upon you; had he not chosen
salvation, through the sanctification of the
law, you could never thus have groaned under
the inbred depravity of your nature; and having love
in truth, is with an everlasting love, a love which
never alters, but is sure to endure to the end.
Will my brother sink, while the arm of everla-
sting love is underneath him? or perish, while the
Father is his refuge? O my friend! these
above characters of the redeemed, and I
find not some of them belonging to you?
The lame and the sick man, w

... rational conclusion.
... O eternity ! etern
... make me look into eternity with pa
... ender Death in any wise comfortable,
... e manifestation of my interest in the de
... rrection of Christ, the Spirit itself bear
... with my own spirit, that I belong to, a
... of God. The pain of dying is nothin
... mpared with the pangs of soul I feel
... orward to a dreadful futurity. I may no
... e language of the Psalmist, "Deep callet
... , at the noise of his water-spouts ; I sin
... aters, wherein there is no standing,"
... friends you would have me trust in God
... the promises to myself; and gladly
... I find that I can as soon remove moun
... ast them into the sea, as trust and be
... ed with a faith of appropriation
... elf from me and

imitating the conduct of the angels
when at Peniel. They likewise
him concerning the immutability of
infinite value of the blood of Christ
of the promise of the covenant the w
God might have in withdrawing fi
calamity, the assurance which the
us of the Holy Spirit finishing h
souls of his people, and the conf
the implacable tempter. They like
their hope that the Lord would yet
in a way of consolation, before he
down into the dark valley of the sh
but if it should be otherwise, they
his landing safe on the shore of t
their endeavours seemed to be fruit
persisted in his belief that the rig
in strict justice, cast him off, as w
among his chosen ones.

I now turned to my guide with
countenance and addressed him .

of the Redeemer, and a special
Jehovah, whose ways are in the deep
and whose judgments are unsearchable
equalled this venerable saint for fervor
and sanctity of life, and few have drawn
of the heavenly Spirit of the immaculate
withstanding he is thus tried like silver
in the fire. While health and vigour attended
he was blessed with a greater than ordinary
conviction of his own sinfulness both in the
fruit; and he was one of the very few
who grieve under the sense of the pollution
of depraved hearts, and consequently
of the defilement and imperfections
of his services. This discovery greatly ten-
dered his comfort and joy, so that he sel-
dom enjoyed those elevations of spirit with which some
are favoured; but, at the same time, it had a hap-
py result.

and in the world; patient in tribulation and constant in prayer, desiring not the glory of God, not his own, so good of the Redeemer's people.

This unexpected account of Humilius amazed me, and made me more solicitous what might be the event.

Therefore I addressed my guide in the manner: Venerable sir, I readily acknowledge my error, and humbly beg your pardon for the same; and I pray you would signify to me by informing me, whether it be for such, as you have described Humilius to be cast off by the Almighty, and at last cast off. To which I thought Veratio replied: No, it cannot possibly be, that such a one should be cast off; for there are none but the regenerated who answer the description I have given of Humilius; and any may know, that none are cast off but those who are the objects

the divine will with respect
 n, his abhorrence of evil on account
 justifying the ways of God, together
 nest desire of forgiveness and accep
 many evidences of his interest in t
 d, though at present he can see none
 Sir, said I, permit me to ask you ano
 , for I am born to be troublesome. I
 any reasons assigned, why the Lor
 er some of his dearest saints to fall i
 rtion and distress in their latest hours
 es, Novitio, said he, some reasons
 ned, why it should sometimes be so; b
 e in God to their persons, want of ter
 Redeemer, can never be justly thoug
 asons for it; but God hath holy end
 y every part of his procedure, and n
 dispensation also. I -

edings of the Almighty, -
alty here vanisheth, when it is considered
for the Most High to choose for such purpo
persons whose conduct hath been less guarded
ld not answer the end designed. We natu
expect that professors who are unguarded in
r conduct, and remiss in the known duties o
gion, will find hard work of it on a death-bed
ich will be no less troublesome to them, than
ey lay upon pointed flints; so that, although th
rty himself may be at last saved, it is throug
ry temptations and grievous afflictions: b
hen Christian people behold a person of the m
reunspect and conscientious conversation, sprin
g from principles of the most eminent pie
mourning after an absent God, and lamenting
ns, which all the world besides himself are st
to. it naturally tends to stir up each to sel
consider his own ways.

business; and, after all, I assure you, that I am even now at the very brink of despair."

Another end which God may have in view, perhaps, may be to remove the carnal confidence which his own people are too prone to have, in the grace which they have already received. In some frames, instead of studying to be strong in the grace that is in Christ, they are strong in that which is implanted in themselves: vainly imagining, that they can overcome the severest trial in the strength thereof. With an ancient professor, when he stood on a place slippery enough, they say, "My mountain stands strong; I shall never be moved:" not considering that the Christian's conquest depends not on the grace which he hath already received, but on fresh supplies communicated in the time of need, from Him, in whom it hath pleased the Father that all fulness shall dwell. All fulness dwelling in Jesus, naturally supposes that there is nothing but emptiness in the creature, and that, therefore, the sublime exercise of Christian faith consists in a constant reliance upon God in Christ, for mercy to pardon every sin, and for grace to help in every time of necessity.

Now when Christian people behold the greatest of saints labouring in the dark, under the severest buffetings and sharpest conflicts of soul, it naturally tends to make them suspect their supposed strength, and to exercise themselves in an habitual reliance upon God. And seeing their need of fresh supplies of grace, how naturally are they led, by such dispensations, to the inexhaustable Fountain of all fulness, for strength proportioned to their

the Lord is pleased
his people to live upon him
But come, Novitio, and
the immediate cause of the
milius.

This said, the venerable
eyes with his precious eye-sa
I discerned a deformed fiend
the side of Humilius, and w
ear; and at every sigh which
through the pressure of his gri
ry smiled a most ghastly grin.
attention to this evidence-dark
chain harder than adamant rou
end of which was secure in the
person, who shone brighter by
his strength; by which I saw
may please the Almighty some
tan to

DEATH—A VISION.

Here my guide ceased ; and, as I thought, good Humilius, for the last time, opened his mouth and said : Ever since I knew any thing of religion flying to Christ has been my last resource. I am now dreadfully oppressed with the weight of my sins, but whither shall I fly for help, but to the mercy of that God against whom I have sinned. He only hath the words of eternal life. There is none in the heavens above, none upon the earth beneath, that can help me but him ; as it has been in my lifetime, so it is now ; this is my last resource : I die, if I trust not in him ; I can but trust in him : therefore I will prostrate my soul at the foot of his throne, and there will I wait for mercy. If I perish, I perish ! and if I should as I deserve, be spurned from his presence, it shall be relying on his own blood and righteousness, there is salvation in none other.

Having uttered these words with the dying gasp in his throat, his speech failed, to the grief of his godly acquaintance ; some of whom said : Alas ! lest this should be the means of turning the lame out of the way. One thing I beheld pleased me mightily ; which was this : the moment that good Humilius ceased to speak, the majestic person of whom I spoke, who shone gloriously, gave the chain, wherewith the fury was bound, a severe twitch, and obliged him to leave the good man to his rest : which so enraged the squalid infernal, that he growled most horribly and in anguish gnawed the adamant chain : which disappeared, and I saw him no more.

In the mean while, my benevolent

language of spirits ;
than with all diligence I attended to
sed with the good Humilius ; in whose
found myself by this time deeply inte
I listened, I heard the Almighty, who
before seemed to stand upon Mount Sin
ded with clouds of darkness and horrib
now speak from Mount Zion, in a still,
and said to the speechless man : “ I
thee with an everlasting and immu
therefore I have drawn thee by dark j
self ; yea, I have caused thee to pas
rod, and have brought thee into the
covenant. The way which I led thee
est not ; but I have made crooked j
before thee, and rough places smoo
fare is now accomplished, and I ha
tan forever under thy feet.”

The dying man no sooner felt th
of the well-known voice of God, th
mentally replied : My

I saw in my dream, that guardian angels descended from heaven in blazing squadrons, to attend the dismissal of this sanctified soul, and to guard her passage to the celestial world. As the good Humilius ceased to breathe, the attending angels clapped their wings for joy, that one more of the chosen race had passed through the glory birth,—that one more of the elect charge was safely gathered home; with holy fervour they saluted the glorious spirit, and bid her welcome into the undisturbed rest of their splendid society. She thankfully received their pure caresses, and struck with wonder and astonishment at unspeakable grace, she instantly mixed her melodious voice with those warbling choiristers, her companions, who sung the most delightful song, to which every ear attended. I thought I could discern the glorious notes of sweet deliverance from the lips of the newly-departed soul, in a key more exalted than the rest. O with what pleasure did I listen to the solemn song of one who so very lately was languishing in deep distress!

O Veratio! cried I, what blinded creatures are we mortals! The glories of heaven blaze all around us, and yet we perceive not in the least their illustrious splendour.

Having sung the noble anthem to distinguishing love and unspeakable grace, they stretched their brilliant pinions, and swift as thought shot through the vault of heaven, towards the regions of eternal felicity. As soon as they arrived in the empyrean plain, I beheld innumerable companies of the *celestial hosts*, in their long, their glorious, and re-

... to congratulate the so
rival in the glory-world, and in tr
her up to the throne of God.
along through the streets of Parac
all paved with diamonds and topa
Humilius was often saluted by his
ions in warfare, who greatly rejoic
grimage was finished, and the tim
tion arrived. In their bright proc
golden gates of the holy city up
throne, shouts of loud joy, and pea
triumph, burst from each tongue, a
celestial arches ring in concert with
voices.

I thought I saw the blessed, the
Jesus descend, from the midst of th
meeting Humilius, embraced him
fection ; he also called upon the exc
ilus, (under whose ministry, Humi
had been savingly converted,) and l
that now another diamond

of the Holy Ghost. Let him now possess mansions which hath so long been preparing, and enjoy the rest into which he was called,"

He who sat on the throne, thus bespoke : "Come, my beloved one, receive the which I have prepared for thee, and the glory which I have appointed thee ; for I have loved thee with an everlasting love, and by my spirit of thee, I have drawn thee to my glory."

He records of eternity were all laid open ; and now being blessed with the beacon, he could read every line therein which showed his own state, either in time or in eternity.

Oh, how great was the wonder of the woman, how inflamed was her gratitude, when she saw every circumstance attending her pilgrimage, wonderfully fixed in the decrees of God, which were both high and difficult unto us in the church. With holy amazement she beheld that the stream of providential events flowed from and into the love of God to her in the person of Jesus Christ. Silent no longer could she sit ; but her voice broke forth in rapturous songs of ceaseless praise in concert with all the redeemed hosts, and, in the fervour of unutterable love, she played the golden harp, and sung responsive to the angels.

He followed Humilius thus far, Veratone, and lo ! the vision was withdrawn ; but the impressions on my mind, which, I never be erased. Being at last capable of reflection, after my astonishment was

everburning hell, where the worm d
as the former are immediately tra
gelick wings, from a land of sin and
into the more immediate presenc
light of the ever-blessed Three, to p
joys of the undivided One. Then
ed are the dead who die in the Lor
from their labours, and their w
them."

PART V.

As I was ruminating on these things, I thought that my guide called me away, saying, We may yet see DEATH attended with very different circumstances; and, although I thought myself by the last scene fully repaid for all the terrour I had undergone at the beginning of my acquaintance with Veratio, I was inspired with the most eager desire to have farther discoveries of sanctified DEATH. I followed him with the greatest eagerness out of this chamber, wherein I had viewed such an agreeable scene, into another apartment adjacent to it, and there he showed me a happy disciple, who, with great composure of mind, was laid on a sick bed, under the pressure of heavy affliction. Calm and serene in the midst of tempestuous trouble; in the midst of trying sorrow, his patience stood unmoved, even as the stately oak lifts up its lofty head, despite the western tempests; or as the stable rock, amidst the furious surges, endures the wrathful discharge, without the least emotion. Rent with racking pain, and oppressed with deathly sickness, he patiently, though with a trembling voice, said, Good is the Lord's will concerning me! the cup that my heavenly Father hath mingled for me, shall I not patiently drink it? I thought, in my dream, that he was thus addressed by one of his friends: Sir, I would have you repose yourself a little, for your afflictions are very heavy; and, not-

ing me ~~any~~ --
cannot complain, for I am well
do nothing wrong. Were it n
not do it, omnipotent as he is.
deed, make this clay tabernacl
lighter than nothing, when put
my sins. I well know they
greater, and yet my God be a j
cy and tender compassion gr
when he smites, and his bow
mingles a bitter cup for any c
fully persuaded, that he will l
himself, nor suffer others to
me, than he will support me u
very pitiful and full of mercy
I deserve nothing at his hand
down in sorrow; I am, there
about the measure of my afflic

Christ. Since it pleased the Lord to visit me with this affliction, which I think is drawing near to a period, I have had many struggles with my own unbelieving heart, and many conflicts with Satan, in regard to my interest in the love of Jesus. But, glory to the Almighty name, the enemy seems to be withdrawn, my anchor is within the veil, and my hope is fixed in Immanuel. I myself am a poor helpless worm, and my faith is very tottering; but the rock of my salvation, the object of my faith, can never be shaken. With Him there is no variableness, nor so much as the least shadow of a change; I may, therefore, boldly trust in him, and calmly wait the issue of his providence.

After all, continued he, I must confess, that I have often been indulged with sensible manifestations of divine love, when, to my own apprehension, I stood less in need of them than at present. But, O, let me not attempt to correct the proceedings of unerring wisdom! The Lord's ways are the best, and I desire to submit to them; he hath graciously promised that he will never leave nor forsake me, and I account him faithful who has promised. I bless him for his word. This is the hold into which I flee for shelter in the dark and stormy day. I would not for all the world, be without an interest in the above precious promise, for I live not now by sense, but by faith, and this affliction hath found a good deal of work for the little faith, I possess. Believe me, my friends, I have often been obliged, in times of darkness and difficulty, to live upon the word of grace; and has, upon the whole, been spirit and life to

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cious than my deserts.

The sick man being spent with singing, I thought that he was obliged to small space, to recover himself. By zeal for the welfare of his friends, as possible he spake as follows :

My dear brethren, in all appears near, very near, my last hour ! and beg that you will regard it as the warning, that the cross of Christ is of comfort mortifying us to creature-objects. Afflictions of Providence, bodily afflictions, temptations of Satan, are such excellencies that by the direction and influence of the Holy Spirit they prove the destruction of sin in us. For my own part I declare to you that I have learned more of God by afflictions, than by sermons that I have ever heard preached.

It was now that Veratio whispered to me, I well believe, Novitio, what this g

our comfort, let us know that afflictions themselves cannot survive the sin which they instrumentally destroy.

In the meanwhile, the dying man continued and said, My dear friends, despise not the chastening of the Lord; resist not affliction with a foolish pagan bravery; neither murmur, repine, nor faint, when you are rebuked by him; for he chastiseth not in anger, neither does he rebuke in hot displeasure. If you are the objects of divine love, you must expect the application of the rod; for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If you are the disciples of the meek and lowly Jesus, you must expect in this life to bear the cross, for it is always antecedent to the crown. Without afflictions you, I do not, you cannot bear the image of your heavenly Jesus, for he was afflicted, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. They greatly mistake, who hope for Christ here, without afflictions along with him. Our passover is never to be eaten in this world, without bitter herbs; therefore, that religion which is unconnected with the cross, is not the religion of Christ, but of the world. Be you assured, my friends, that the way in which no cross is found, must needs be the broad and downward way; for the cross of Christ is the right, the only pathway to the kingdom; and those who despise and reject the cross, will find themselves at death, deprived of the crown. Here he stopped again, his strength being exhausted; and his silent friends stood with a mournful pleasure around his bed.

plied: Indeed, my friend, I cannot
far as I know my own heart, which
been a mystery to me, I neither
death; for me to live, is Christ, and
is eternal gain. I know that the
numbered my days, and my month
he hath fixed the limits both of my
habitation, so that I cannot pass on
he hath, by an immutable decree,
very moment and means of my dissc
then, should I anxiously think, or
at all about the matter? His purpo
the same, and the thoughts of his
generations. His council shall stand
do all his pleasure. If I am appoint
I think I am, I trust he will glorify.
death; and if it should be that I am a
life, he hath wisdom and power su
rify himself even by my living. I
wholly to his disposal.

thinks it is a desirable thing, to see our children educated in a religious manner, and settled agreeably in the world. These things often lie with a distressing weight upon my mind, and are ties which strongly bind me down to earth, and from which I sincerely desire to be delivered.

The sick man replied: My dear friend, I must confess to you, that, next to the welfare of the Redeemer's church, my wife and children are dear to me;* and if any thing could now prevail with me to desire a longer sojournment in this valley of sorrows, it would be the welfare of my dear children, and dearer wife, for they have always been dear to me, ever since I enjoyed them. Consulting their welfare, had formerly been attended with great anxiety; but now I see, that in my over-carefulness, I was far from being submissive to the sovereign pleasure of an all-disposing God; and, as far as lay within my power, was for wresting the

*These words of Stabilius, "Next to the welfare of the Redeemer's church, my wife and children are dear to me," are very remarkable, and ought to be regarded. That he loved his wife and children, is evident from what he says both in this place and elsewhere; but however fervent his affection for them might be, it gave place to the love he bore to the Redeemer's church. This evidences the true spirit of Christianity in him, and serves as much to fix his character, as the exalted exercises of his faith, being expressive of the very spirit of that text, *Matt. x. 37*, "He that loveth father or mother more than me, is not worthy of me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than me, is not worthy of me." If this be regarded as a rule, it will fix a lasting stigma upon those professors who are so full of care for themselves and families, that they have neither leisure nor inclination to care for the church of God. These are like withered limbs in the common body; they neither improve nor receive nourishment; neither are their death-beds fit to be honoured, as that of the good Stabilius.

re, and left the issue to

well ; but, alas ! I could not be easy, until I saw the issue answer my desire. Blessed forever be that God who turneth our heat into rivers of water, at present all anxious appears to be gone, and my wife and children no burden at all to my mind ; for I know that God whom I serve will convert the stones into bread, before he will suffer the seed of the righteous to famish.*

Settling my children in the world, appeared very desirable thing, before I came to a death-bed ; but now I am taught that their settling in the world does not, in the least, depend on my being present with them ; for the determination of Jehovah is long since divinely gone forth by a firm and irrevocable decree, in which all their circumstances great and minute, are infallibly settled by the Father who worketh all things

it is his prerogative to make poor,) how shall my presence with them be able to make them rich? or if his sov'reign bounty shall be pleased to exalt and make them rich, what circumstances so penicious, as to prevent the execution of his design? Holy and revered is his name; he disposeth of all creatures and things as his wisdom doth direct. By his determination kings reign, and princes decree justice. Races and battles are under his direction; yea, the very turning up of the lot is determined by Jehovah; much more the station and circumstances of his people, and their children. Why then should I desire to interfere in the matter of settling them to the disquieting of my own mind? For God both can and will bring his purposes to pass, without my instrumentality, if he is pleased to take me to himself! Their education in religious principles, hath been by far the most tender point with me, well knowing the influence which a godly education often hath upon the conduct of youth; but this also I am enabled to leave with the Lord: not from any indifferency about them, so as to be careless about their welfare in time or eternity; but I have ever been so sensible of my deficiency, in regard to paternal duty, that I often fear my children have been more injured by my imperfections, than profited by my precepts and instructions. Besides, I am fully persuaded, that God will be at no loss for an instrument, when he is about to teach them the knowledge of himself.

Be assured, my friends, that children are not brought one hour sooner to the knowledge of God, on account of their parent's lives being preserved

of themselves, and the same

love to their persons. Therefore I commend
tender offspring to the protection and grace
who has deigned to become the father of the
fatherless, and who hath said to me in my con-
fession, "Leave your fatherless and your widows."
I trust his word; and believe, of all guards
is the most disinterested. My dear Hon-
ourable beloved spouse, always hath been dear to me
since it pleased the Lord, by his holy or-
der to make us one; but although she is dear
as that we seemed to possess but one, so
with pleasure leave her a few days behind
this world, notwithstanding it is, and shall
to be, a world of sin and sorrow. I know
she is an elect vessel, a daughter of faithful
promise, and an heiress according to the
promise, and as such, she is under Divine protection

Fear not, my dear H

ngers, and make you more than conqueror." It is your God, my love—your Husband and Friend, who reigns supreme over all creation, who holds the reins of government in his own Almighty hand, and thereby curbeth the enemies of his people at pleasure ; so that the most potent of them cannot stir up his heel against the child of God, without divine permission. He never grants a permission to any of them, without a proper limitation : "Hitherto thou mayest come," is the permission ; "but thou shalt go no farther," is the restraint ; when as Satan obtained leave to destroy every thing which belonged to pious Job, but was prohibited touching his life. Thus it is, that the feeblest of Redeemer's flock dwell secure from real danger, beneath the covert of divine protection.

My dear Honora, our great Lord is a husband to the widow ; He is a wise director, a rich provider, a powerful protector, and as such He is mine, yours in the strongest obligations, yours in heaven and to all eternity. The confidence I have in these things, makes me willingly resign the wife, my bosom, and my tender offspring, to the will of that beneficent Being, who hath a sovereign right to dispose of me and mine, as He shall see fit for his own glory.

My dear friends and fellow-travellers, beware of moderate care ; for you may greatly injure, but never can you thereby profit your children at all. Think not that their settlement in the world depends either less or more upon you ; for when I have cared your last for them, the Sovereign Ruler will dispose of them just as he sees meet,

ignorance of, and enmity against the
ly God. Alas! how many Christians
wofully perplexed with fruitless
of their lives, and are thereby pre-
usefulness which they might obtain
the church of Christ! Believe me
you can do for your children, is seri-
ously to dedicate them unto God
and all their concerns at his disposal
this in good earnest, by an habitual
and they will reap the advantage of
be the peace, and theirs will be the
member what young Samuel got by
ication.

He ceased here, his strength being
and, after some time, one of his friends
dressed him: Dear sir, I cannot put
but a mind thus stayed in the Lord,
with the most joyous transport.

To which the good man replied.

and transitory ; now enjoyed—dead anon ! now like the full-blown rose my comforts have flourished—immediately stripped of all their beauty, like the winter vine ! When I lived upon my frames, I was all upon extremes, either ravished on the mount of enjoyment, or gone down to do business in the deep waters. One hour I said, “ My mountain stands sure ; I shall never be moved ; ” perhaps in less than another, I supposed myself, like Peter, sinking into the bosom of a fatal billow. No solidity could I ever find in the frames and dispositions of my own heart ; but I never found the promise to flee, nor the Lord to depart from the word he hath spoken. In all my trials, his immutable word hath been my stay ; and on it alone will I lean, when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. And thus in quietly resting on his word, he will finish the salvation of my soul.

Indeed, if the Lord should be pleased to indulge me now with the sensible comforts of his felt love, shed abroad in my heart by his Holy Spirit, it would make this lonesome valley, into which I am entering, by far more delightful, and my passage through it abundantly less thorny. But if, in his wisdom, he should see meet to withhold from me such a desirable measure of sensible manifestation, I bless him for strength to rely upon it.

My dear brethren, beware of making to yourself a Christ of the dying comforts with which your holy Redeemer is pleased occasionally to indulge you. Remember, that if his tender concern for your peace and pleasure, induce him to privilege you with the shedding abroad of his love in your

aw his common,
ed, and you live upon those common
upon his person, grace, and righteousness.
er always, that salvation, and the com-
ereof, are two very different things; the
of the former being often possessed, where
but a very small degree of the latter. In
ly days of grace, I was greatly wont to
to myself notions of the love of God, accor-
to the glimmering twilight of my own mind,
e good or evil frame I found myself to be in;
rough rich grace and amazing mercy I have
taught rather to judge thereof by the written
of God, by which I have been piloted through
of difficulty, when darker sensations have lost
of shore. And I trust the Holy Ghost will
me by the said written word, till in his good
he is pleased to land me on the glory-shore
into the more immediate presence of

taste. In his lifetime, which hath been an interrupted succession of crowding sorrows, the good Stabilius could live as well and as satisfactorily upon a word of promise, as some others could do upon five hundred a year. Thus, in his lifetime he was so happy as to live by faith in the promises, and now he is dying he is still the same. The word of the Lord is his comfort and stay. But although unbelief appears now to be banished from him, I can tell you it was not always so; for the time was, when under dark dispensations of Providence, he complained with Jacob, that all those things were making against him, though now he is better informed. Yea, whatever infidelity we can find in Job, David, or Asaph, one part or other of the life of good Stabilius hath furnished him with a sad remembrance of theirs; though, upon the whole, his faith has prevailed gloriously; and I imagine he will never more feel an impulse from unbelief.

Now, Novitio, I have a mind to unfold an amazing scene to you; such a scene as you have never before surveyed. Then he touched my eyes with an eye-salve of divine preparation; and instantly I saw what was extremely amazing. I saw a numerous troop of restless infernals beleaguering the bed of the sick man, which was well defended by a brilliant minister of heaven, divinely superb in his immaterial array. Clothed with impenetrable armour, the martial guardian waved a flaming sword, with which he kept all the furies of the pit at a proper distance; so that although

1, who with holy contempt disregarded all
nours. Repulsed in this, they turn their ac
s into the most fervent entreaties to the a
t he would scabbard his sword for a season.
w them the pleasure of distracting the d
1. But the benevolent protector, firm as a r
ained inflexible to their entreaties, and de
r accusations, resolving, in obedience to
of his God, to defend his charge to the
remity. Being thus repulsed, even hell i
ame hotter within them, and irritated with f
enge, they rushed in fearful numbers agains
venly sentinel. Thick as atoms in the
ns, their hissing arrows were shot against
his beloved charge; but skilled in martia
nters, he received their charge, and quen
r fiery darts with his shield, with whic
covered Stabilus. With his brandished
on, which emitted streams of fire as he w
e made the infernal tribe give back; but f
indignation, and freed with new

round about those that fear him :”* and, turning to my guide, I said, O sir, it was well said of that Hebrew prince, who spent his youth in rural employments, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.” Ah, sir! they are well kept whom the Lord doth keep, and the man is blessed whom he thus preserveth. To which Veratio replied, Now, Novitio, you have had a sight of faithful Abdiel, so justly celebrated by the famous Milton, for his constant and firm adherence to Immanuel, even when left alone in the camp of the rebellious seraphim. There it was,

That among the faithless, faithful only he ;
 Among innumerable false, unmov'd,
 Unshaken, unseduced, unterrify'd,
 His loyalty he kept, his love, his zeal ;
 Nor number, nor example with him wrought
 To swerve from truth, or change his constant mind,¹
 Though single. From amidst them forth he pass'd
 Long way through hostile scorn, which he sustain'd
 Superiour, nor of violence fear'd ought ;
 And with retorted scorn, his back he turn'd
 On those proud tow'rs to swift destruction doom'd.

*“The angel of the Lord encamps round about those that fear him.” There is a surprising beauty in these words of the Psalmist, as expressive of the highest safety which the most timorous heart can wish for. He encamps with a view to continue in this situation.—It “is around them,” rather than beside them. Beside them, would have argued great safety ; but encamping “around” implies infinitely more, because every passage is guarded, and no way left for the enemy to give the attack with advantage. Encamps around when dangers are most life, and humanity is most inactive and off its guard. “Around hose that fear him,” rather thus expressed, in condescension to our unbelieving weakness ; the believer being sometimes conscious that he fears God, when he dares not conclude that *he loves him*.—That no room may be left for unbelief to found arguments upon, the potency of the illustrious protector is hinted out in his character, as the “angel of the Lord.”

the quarrel of the most high, and
covered at once his zeal for his God, ar
ess of his own martial arm ; for when,

Before the cloudy van,
On the rough edge of battle ere it join'd,
Satan with vast and haughty strides advanc'd,
Came tow'ring, arm'd in adamant and gold
Abdiel that sight endur'd not, where he stor
Among the mightiest, bent on highest deed
But from his armed p
Forth stepping opposite, half way he met
His daring foe, at this prevention more
Incens'd, and thus securely him defy'd.

Proud, art thou met! thy hope was to ha
The height of thine aspiring unoppos'd,
The throne of God unguarded, and his side
Abandon'd at the terror of thy power—
A potent tongue :

But thou seest
All are not of thy train ; there be who faith
Prefer, and piety to God, though then
To thee not visible, when I alone

The grand foe, with scornful eye askance,
Thus answer'd the faithful Abdiel :

————— I'll for thee, but in wish'd hour
Of my revenge, first sought, for thou return'st
From flight, seditious angel, to receive
Thy merited reward, the first essay
Of this right-hand provok'd since first that tongue
Inspir'd with contradiction durst oppose
A third part of the Gods, in synod met,
Their deities to assert.

————— But well thou com'st
Before thy fellows, ambitious to win
From me some plume, that my success may show
Destruction to the rest.

At first I thought that liberty and heav'n
To heav'nly souls had been all one ; but now
I see that most through sloth had rather serve
Minis'tring spirits, train'd up in feast and song ;
Such hast thou arm'd, the minstrelsy of heaven,
Servility with freedom to contend,
As both their deeds compar'd, this day shall prove.

To whom, in brief, thus Abdiel stern replied :
Apostate, still thou err'st, nor end wilt find
Of erring from the path of truth remote ;
Unjustly thou deprav'st it with the name
Of servitude, to serve whom God ordains,
Or nature ; God and nature bid the same,
When he who rules is worthiest, and excels
Them whom he governs. —————
Reign thou in hell, thy kingdom ; let me serve
In heaven God ever blest, and his divine
Behests obey, worthiest to be obey'd ;
Yet chains in hell, not realms, expect ; mean while
From me return'd as erst thou said'st from flight,
This greeting on thy impious crest receive.

So saying, a noble stroke he lifted high,
Which hung not, but so swift with tempest fell
On the proud crest of Satan, that no sight,
Nor motion of swift thought, less could his shield
Such ruin intercept ; ten paces huge
He back recoil'd ; the tenth on bended knee
His massy spear upstay'd.

a willing and faithful guardian of his
dren, as you have just now seen
between him and the infernal brother.

I thought in my dream that I th
thank you most heartily, my dear,
Veratio, for this discovery, so stran
sing in itself; and I thank you mo
dear sir, for this opportunity of seeing
this celebrated angel. But worthy V
delight appears to be to instruct th
pray you deign to inform me, if it is
such a war may be maintained aroun
and the party himself, for whom th
main unacquainted with it? 'To wh
he replied; You may be at no loss
know that the best of Christians, ev
the Redeemer's family, see and know
therefore there may be many things
transacted among the immaterial inhab
spiritual world, without their knowl

of good Stabilius, he perfectly knows that the prime efficient of all his peace and command of mind; but he does not know that there is an aerial seraph appointed by the Sovereign of the universe, as the guardian of his bed, and protector of his sleeping moments; nor is he in the least apprehensive that there is such a swarm of reprobate spirits so near, and so earnestly seeking the disquiet of his mind.

The militant members of the chosen church do not really see their shining attendants, and understand all the ways of the Lord perfectly, they do not enjoy the heavenly glories before the appointed time; but the fulness of joy and the manifold blessings of the redeemed are reserved for eternity—therefore not to be expected in time. On this subject, many of the Lord's works are done in the secret, and his ways are involved in thick clouds; poor blind mortals cannot discern them before they enjoy the light of eternity. And you, my friend, Novitio, may know that the conflicts between our benevolent protectors, the guardian angels, and our enemies of the reprobate race, are not to be seen with bodily eyes, but with the more penetrating rays of the mind. Bodily eyes discern only material objects, but spiritual sight alone can discern the spiritual.

As I awoke in my dream, that towards the dissolution of Stabilius, I beheld a squadron of armed angels, who were dispatched from the armies in heaven to assist Abdiel in the protection of this my disciple; who, as soon as arrived, and after a brief salutation passed after the angelick manner.

my spotless brethren ! welcom
for I have been vigourously :
daring infernals are resolute
strength of my God, I have
inviolatè. Come, my brethren
immediate action, for the e
quently repulsed, being now :
hell, are rallying their utmost
return intrepidly to the charge
ceived that those ever-armed :
drew his flaming sword, fixed
ted themselves around the be
hero putting himself in a post
ing with united voice, " It is
Lord that his chosen ones st
Happy man, said I, who art
thought in my dream, that aft
the good Stabilius, as if he ha
our at the arrival of his celes
his mouth and most fervently

aid hold of me at my conception, and till I led me in such a manner, that all hath good; and now, my friends, it is without I see both the ends of the chain unaltered in the eternal throne. It cometh from the Father's everlasting love to the person of Jesus, unworthy as I am; and God, even God in the person of the Redeemer, be owned, and glorified with my departing breath. Hear me, my fellow-men, for I speak now within the immediate eternity, and Death even now oppresseth me: behold, "I go the way of all mankind; I know that my Redeemer liveth, and will stand at the latter day upon the earth; though after my skin worms destroy, as they will, this body of mine, yet in the end in this flesh, now almost consumed, I shall see God; yea, I shall see him for myself, for or another; not at a distance, but near, for my reins be consumed within me. I shall see that momentous and much-desired day when I shall in my whole person be made like unto myself." These words were expressed even to the end of Death, so that he was quite spent with speaking, and lay in a profound silence for a few moments; then in a holy triumph, with a face that displayed a sense of conquest, he cried, "O Lord Jesus, come quickly; into thy hands I commend my spirit!" These were his last words. A few minutes after, he quietly yielded up his spirit and slept in Jesus.

meanwhile Veratio addressed himself to

it is from ignorance of the real
an hereafter ; but it is the clear
nity, and of the perfections of
the mind of Stabilus against e
hension, now he is making his
of time, and struggling hand to
cher of the animal flame.

Mind the tender Honora ; n
with a mournful pleasure by t
partner, hers but a very few m
things oppress her with sensib
things inspire her labouring b
She is most sensible of the
which lays her under a multi
O ! her dear, her much-este
pain which he endures in his
becomes hers by sympathy.
head, and tenderly wipes the
brow, every sigh of his, ever
cuts its way directly throug

her dear, her much-valued husband. And she hopes, upon solid and scriptural grounds, that in a little time she herself will be in mercy taken to the celestial world, where she shall again receive, with unspeakable joy, the pure and spiritual caresses of her glorified husband, where they shall spend a vast and an endless eternity together, in the transporting pleasures of paradise, and mutually join in celebrating the praises of their common God and Saviour. Thus she mourns; and reason says she should; but religion teaches her to mourn as one that is not without hope.

The dissolving moment came, the watchful infernals took wing and fled, leaving the soul forever to the blessed possession of uninterrupted peace; she ascended triumphant, and, wrapt in ecstatic wonder, sat for a season on the clayey lips of her beloved mate, gazing on the splendour of the messengers of heaven, notwithstanding she herself shone more gloriously than all her attendants, who, free from envy, joyfully saluted her with, 'Peace be unto thee,' and fondly congratulated her on her safe arrival on the confines of eternity.

By this time I thought I saw an innumerable company of seraphick flames, all of them shining in the perfection of glory, who, as the former, came at the will of Immanuel, to congratulate the soul on her passage through the wilderness of tears, and the gloomy valley of the shadow of Death, and her safe arrival in Immanuel's country; and then gave her their united welcome in their resplendent society. I cannot now, ah! I cannot describe the joys of the glory-born soul, when she

... I gathered up some re-
turous expressions, which, but for his
could not have done; for she spoke in
tongue, which is a language that I nev-
ed; and so imperfect is the fragment
lected, when compared with the ori-
red with shame, and my heart
fear to expose it to view, lest I should
jure the subject, and eclipse the gl-
would gladly (the Lord knows) recom-
man esteem. But encouraged by th-
of incomparable Paul, "Here we see
but in part," I will venture to write
is, as it were, with fear and trembling.

No sooner was the happy soul disent-
mortality, but she was filled with the fi-
glory of God, and in the highest elevati-
port, cried out with a voice of the m-
melody.

this glorious rest, in which all our labour and sorrow shall eternally cease! Is this the heaven I have so often heard preached? This glorious place! O heaven! How often have I heard of thy divine excellencies, when sojourning in the world below! But now I behold thy refulgent glories without an interposing cloud, and lo! the thousandth part of thy beauties was never disclosed. Happy are thine inhabitants, thou imperial city, for the great King is in the midst of thee; his uncreated glories irradiate every corner of thy blissful streets. Blessed and unsullied mansions of the disembodied spirits of the just! Happy I, who was predestinated to the possession of this divine inheritance! Is this the Saviour whom I formerly denied? Ever, till the day of thy unspeakable grace, did I say unto thee, thou adorable Lord, I will not have thee to reign over me. And O my Lord, I am now at last blest with the immediate vision of thee, thou Sharon rose divine! Thy beauties, Lord, how amiable! O how transcendently great are thine excellent glories! Eternal and all-conquering Saviour, I am now at last ravished with thy superabundant goodness, which on earth I could scarcely with coolness admire, but now I behold thee to be all-excellent and divine! Is this the crown, the end of all my former crosses? Massy treasure! Glorious lustre! How striking is the stupendous blaze! In the world below, my eyes were dreadfully obscure; but now I behold all the excellencies of Godhead, all the radiant beams of unclouded divinity, in their fullest resplendency, shining forth in thy immaculate person.

forever beneath my victorious feet.
your, the conquest is thine! Ye
the promised time is now come that
your envious rage. No more, ye
nals, shall your cruel buffetings
the tranquillity of this ever-peace
mind. Nor shall your spear-like
of violence and deceit, evermore be
my conduct with blame. Ye chil
ye treacherous persecutors of the
the gulf is fixed, and here you ca
second time to perplex me with s
the tumultuous rage of fiery lusts
passions evermore be able to separ
best beloved and me.

“ I am now secure within thine
walls, O thou blessed Jerusalem!
with the insupportable blaze of de
here let me bask forever, though t
ferable. Already filled with the f

Having gathered up this most imperfect fragment of what I heard, I thought that the scene was withdrawn, and the vision departed from me ; and I, astonished at what I had heard and seen, turned to my guide, and in transport, said : No wonder, sir, if Balaam, who saw the visions of the Almighty, desired to die the death of the righteous, and enjoy such a latter end as theirs. No wonder, if Judas, the traitor, despaired and hanged himself, after having betrayed such a glorious Saviour as this. Ah, Veratio, my good Veratio, may I enjoy the divine favour, whatever else I may lack ! May I endure all sorrow which both earth and hell can inflict, rather than miss of the glory which shall be revealed ! Fall short of heaven ! O ! I tremble at the thought ! Fall short of heaven ! If I should, I should be of all creatures the most emphatically wretched and miserable. To love, to see, and not enjoy, ah, what intolerable anguish would it give ! If it depended less or more on works of my performing, I could not avoid falling short ; but it is of grace, all of grace, of nothing but grace, and so let grace have the glory for ever secure. Yet, O let me never deceive myself in a matter of such grand importance ; but raw and inexperienced as I am, I think I have something of the same hope which the good Stabilus expressed ; and O Veratio, may my latter end be like his !

HERE my guide addressed me, and Novitio, you have seen something of I formed into life, and it is glorious in y but if you will follow me, we may y other discoveries relating to the depa sanctified. By this time my curiosity ed to the utmost pitch ; therefore I nee persuasion to attend to further discove the departure of Humilius and Stabi very agreeable, at least to myself: the to my guide—Lead, Veratio, lead w will, and I will follow you.

Are you sure of that, replied Verat you may be mistaken: a much stro than Novitio appears to be, hath desert now ; and the strongest have found it dif to adhere to me at certain times. Pai replied I ; I meant while you unfoldc able scenes ; for I perceive, sir, their attractive. Well, Novitio, replied he,

... was Fidelity, h
you to her bed by a deathly disorder,
of six weeks or upwards; and by th
seemed almost conquered by the fatal
ture, though she still retained the perfe
r reason, and still was capable of speak
visitants. At the time of our going in
apartment, some few of her friendly ac
s, some of them meanly, others of them
l, were come to visit her, desirous to pe
st offices of Christian friendship, expect
er departure from earth was at hand. O
who stood by her bed-side, spoke to
“My dear friend Fidelity, I see your bow
w, and in all appearance the hour of y
re is approaching near; but if strength
I should be glad to know how it is
al: for I have sometimes known the
ost healthful and wise

the deignful weight of redeeming, and regenerating love, by the sweetest and most persuasive my heart, and still it is the more cause of its discriminating nature! O the heights and depths! Why is it that I, a poor unworthy sinner, should be found thy favouring and miraculous grace! that elevation of the adorable Jesus hath I end preached itself into my very standing I am the basest of all the Behold I see the wise, the moral, noble, standing at a distance from thee, and strangers to the pardoning, while I, the most unworthy of all, am in the comforts of his love. It is thy omnipotent Saviour; and it is marvel thou lovest merely because thou pardonest only because such is thy nature. At some time her friend add

rightly and wisely determined; I would not, on any account, that it had been otherwise than it has been. Whatever beauty others may think there is in growing riches, I must tell you for my own part, that I would not for the world have been born to be rich; for wherever they come, "riches are sure to be a burden to the possessor:" therefore, he who well understood the nature of things, says, "he that increases in them doth also increase in sorrow." I have always found my own corruptions to be burden enough for me to bear up the hill towards Mount Zion, without a weight of thick clay, however brilliant, on my shoulders.

Here my guide gently jogged me, and said, "This is most excellently judged of Fidelia, for as weights of lead are to the courser, when he runs for the plate, so is gold to the follower of Christ." It is very difficult to possess gold, without loving it; and you may know that the love of money "is the root of all evil;" insomuch that it is next to impossible for a rich man to be a true and humble Christian.*

* Within the few years that I have been a professor, I have known many useful members of Gospel churches, utterly spoiled by getting rich. From spiritual, savoury, and sociable brethren, they have dwindled into mere formalists and muck-worms, barren fig-trees in the garden of God; and such they are likely to continue, till it is the pleasure of God to revive them again. Many you will find convinced of this doctrine to their judgment, whose affections are altogether unmoved; therefore they compass sea and land to get money, notwithstanding they have the greatest reason to believe, that it will add to their trouble. Yea, although they have many stings of conscience on this account, still they will do what they can to increase it. How absurd is man!

have furnished me with many
ties of beholding the goodness of
faithfulness to his promise ; wh
had certainly lost, had I been r
such beauty in the unerring dis
idence towards me, that no way
have been chosen, as the very v
cious God hath taken to bring
his glory. Well may I cry ou
“ O the depth and riches, both
knowledge ! ”

Filled with admiration at the
Fidelia stopped here, and Ver
has been, Novitio, the errour of
still more of readers, to suppos
tainment, and but few profitab
drawn from a state of low life ;
true religion our theme, where
it ? If we inquire at the palace
tus, there we see all the pomp o
driving on in its latter career :

ple, are called to the possession of true religion ; but the poor have the Gospel preached to them ; and, among the lower class of people, religion dwells in its greatest power, as you may see in the case of Fidelia, whose mind is overwhelmed with holy joy, even in the midst of her extreme sufferings.

It was now, I thought, that one of her friends asked her, how it was with her as to the comforts of life. To which she replied : O my friends, I have all things, and abound ; our gracious God hath promised, that our bread shall be given, and our water shall be sure ; and to the praise of his providence, I can say, that I have always found the promise verified, for he is a God, keeping covenant, and full of faithfulness. This I have always had reason to note, but more especially been sensible of it since the death of my dear Fidelio ; since then I have been necessitated to live by faith on the promises of a provident God. I have been enabled to trust, and never knew the promises to fail, nor the Lord to fall short of any word he hath spoken. How shall I praise thee, thou God of infinite fullness, who from thine own inexhaustible stores hath richly supplied all my wants ? I long to appear before thee, O thou immaculate Redeemer, that I may see thee in the effulgence of thy glory ; for here I see darkly as in a glass. Many are the refreshing gales of sweet consolation which I have had in the ordinances of thy grace ; but now, when I compare them with that unfathomable depth of undecaying comfort, which I see immediately before me, they are like the small dust of the balance,

in this wilderness:
new and heavenly Jerus
come with thine excellent
it be when put in full poss
nothing hinders me from
my comforts, but this thin
mortality. Let it once be
and I shall with unspeak
stupendous blaze of thy un

I long, O I long to join y
yonder radiant church in the
to press into yonder bright
faith I see surrounding the
might mingle my humble no
nious voices, and with them
and the Lamb. Hasten thy
time! Ye moments, swift
flight! Lord, shake my gla
speedily pass through! But
red is his name, that there re
ticles more in the

King in his beauty ; this tongue shall delight to praise him eternity along ; and these hands, which once were the instruments of unrighteousness, shall cast at his majestick feet the glorious crown wherewith this worthless head shall be adorned. O happy, happy day, that brings home the longing exile, and lands the weary pilgrim upon the shore of rest, to be ever, ever with the Lord !

Fidelia finishing here, her friend again said to her : My dear sister, I rejoice with you, that the Lord is pleased to indulge you with such a measure of his sensible presence, on this, which otherwise would be a day of severe trial to you ; but the Redeemer's presence makes even Death itself not only tolerable, but desirable and easy. But in the midst of your sensible enjoyments, you seem as if you had forgotten your three little children ; tell me, Fidelia, have you no uneasiness at the thoughts of leaving them behind you, in a land of sin and sorrow ? Would it not, with submission to the divine will, be desirable to you to be spared to see them brought up to a capacity of doing for themselves.

To whom Fidelia replied : The Lord hath been a husband to the widow, and I am persuaded he will be a father to the fatherless, and an all-sufficient stay to the helpless orphan. My children are dear, but my Saviour is infinitely dearer to me : and I have got such a taste of the grapes of the heavenly Canaan, that I cannot think of abiding on this wilderness-side of Death. My heart is already gone over, O why do I tarry any longer behind ? But the Lord's time is the best. Pray for me, my friends, that I may not offend the best of Beings.

you with pleasure leave them in this world? She replied: Alas, my friend, service can my presence be to a warfare? I can be of no use at all. But I know what I hath chosen, purchased, and sanctified, I will keep it, and every individual man shall have the perfect day: for of all whom the Father hath given to the Mediator, he hath not lost one; not lose any thing; no, not the weakest, not the most contemptible; for all shall be gathered into his heavenly kingdom.

Give the impartial love of a dying warrior to your fellow-church members, and tell them that it is the last request of their dying friend, that they live at a greater distance from the world. There is, alas! too much, by far too much difference between the precious children of the church and the children of the world. Some of them, in their manner very unbecoming, court the fantastic and the fantastic, and others seem too eagerly to thirst after the shining, unsatisfactory riches of this world.

vain and empty pleasures of the flesh, which at best are no more than an ærial dream. But, O! tell them from me, that the honours of life are lighter than chaff, and will be driven away when Christ comes with his fan in his hand, thoroughly to purge his floor: then my friends they will appear lighter than nothing, and altogether vanity. O that they could be persuaded, that gold and silver is one of the most dangerous burdens that a Christian possibly can carry; the love of money is the root of all evil. They will never repent when they come to a death-bed, that they are not rich, and cannot leave fortunes to their children. Tell them, that if the Almighty in his wisdom, sees that riches are for their good, he will, in his benevolence, bestow them without their immoderate care, or without injuring their minds in the least. O let Christians beware of accounting gain to be godliness. Tell them from me, that the pursuit of worldly pleasure is the certain way to dishonour their God, and destroy the peace of their own souls. O persuade them, as Christians, to seek the things which come from above where the blessed Jesus sitteth at the right hand of God. Let them know, that conformity to the vain customs of the world, is highly injurious to the cause and interest of Christ, and has a natural tendency to harden poor sinners in their rebellion against God. When they come to a death-bed, as I am now, all those names of honour, the applause of mankind, and all the comfort which springs from the possession of riches, will vanish away as empty vapours and smoke. Verily, all things here below are vanity. The divine

sent toward me, —

Now, Novitio, this is divine re-
ness! Here are riches in the
health in the midst of sickness, j
pain, and glory rising out of m
exalted soul is this! How much
let down into this blessed cottage
how excellent is thy religion, O
vour of mankind! blessed is he,
soul is the only begotten of the l

Know my friend, that Fidelia
worthy tradesman named Philale
a constant lover and a punctual
as all that dealt with him wot
Philalethes was parent to a n
whom he carefully instructed in
religion. As soon as his tend
lisp forth their innocent and cl
he used to deal with them as
and studied to impress their mi
omnipresence

sure, to go before his family in the worship of their Maker. And well knowing that the Almighty delighteth more in the gates of Zion than in all the dwellings of Jacob, he carefully led his whole family duly to attend the publick worship of God, during which he accustomed his children, from their youngest years, to a decent and becoming gravity in the house of prayer. He suffered no part of the holy Sabbath to be devoted to vain amusement or worldly business; the morning thereof was chiefly employed in divine worship, and in putting his family in mind of the solemnity of the sanctuary service which they were to enter upon; and in the evening his care was to improve the sermons which they had heard, and administering suitable instructions to the various branches of his family, according to their several capacities. He greatly confided in that word of promise, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Prov. xxii. 6. And although he perfectly knew that he could not give them grace, he believed it his duty to inure them to the forms of religion. Encouraged by the promise, and well knowing that human endeavours avail but little without divine influence, he was a fervent wrestler* with God for the blessing, and had the pleasure of seeing that his endeavours and prayers were not in vain; as his family, even from their younger years, were properly restrained from the fashionable vices which corrupt our youth, and were perfect strangers to the brilliance of a ball,

*Gen. xxxii. 24.

pearance of real grace in the soul, and in their religious sentiments ; for he that unless husband and wife were of opinion, both with regard to doctrine of worship, there is but little prospect which is so essential to mutual happiness he married to a worthy young man of fortune, whose name was Fidelio, a tradesman, who in their younger years such losses in trade, as reduced him to the necessity of supporting his family by the hands ; and no labour he thought too to support his wife and children, whom he loved. But as one says in a certain place times happens to a righteous person : the deserts of the wicked, so it happened for it pleased the Lord, a few years since her husband away from her at a very young age to possess the heavenly diadem to which he was appointed. Her fervent and faithful

mighty Disposer dealt hardly with her ; never as she known, in a way of murmuring and impatience, to say unto God, "What dost thou?"

On the other hand, she was careful to know whether she had not purchased the affliction to herself by an over-estimate for, and too much dependence on her husband ; thereby withholding a part of her heart from, and infringing her duty of full dependence on God. In the times of her deepest distress she was wont thus to reason ; I know, yea, am fully persuaded that the Lord afflicteth not lightly ; there must be necessity for it, ere he is pleased to apply the rod. Instead of mourning as without hope, her principal care was, that the dispensation might be sanctified to her advantage ; growth in grace, that she might live more upon and rest more fully on the Saviour who died for

Fidelia was a woman who well knew how to plead a promise in the time of need ; she was always but weak in body, but a powerful wrestler for the throne of grace ; she was shy in courting, modest in receiving favours from man ; but at the throne of God she was importunate, and would not take a denial. Her circumstances being very distressing after the death of her husband, she was brought to the necessity of living by faith on a promising God, even for hers and her children's daily sustenance, which, I assure you, is far from being the least part of the exercise of faith.

Distressed Fidelia used to comfort herself in resting upon the regard which Jehovah has expressed towards the poor and needy, and especially his declaring himself "to be a husband to the widow,

...my husband, has
ised to be a husband himself; a
husband, as he hath said, he
part of the best of husbands. It
is to direct, defend, and provide
and all this the Lord hath prom
the widow who trusts in him.
to the tenour of the promises i
particular, to that salutary word
caused me to hope, where he l
self a Sun and a Shield to his
heat to influence and quicken me
and here is a shield for safety, a
tion from all enemies, outward an
deth, I will give grace to supp
sanctify afflictions; and when th
ed, he says, I will give glory. A
a life of infinite wants, but here i
for them all; for it is added, "I
good thing." This is an ample
for all my necessities. Great as t

in proportion to their necessities : my necessities are great ; therefore, O Lord, may my trust in thee be strong.

It was thus she communed with her own heart, and made profitable reflections upon the promises of God. She was likewise accustomed early to tell her children that now they had no natural father, to protect and dispose of them ; but that God had designated himself “ the father of the fatherless,” and she hoped that He would be a father to them.—She most earnestly did she recommend them to the grace and protection of the divine Shepherd, who bears lambs in his arms, and nourisheth them in his bosom. She prayed, and she hoped that God would be the guardian of their infant years, train them up in his own fear, nurture, and admonition ; provide for them all things necessary, and dispose of them to the glory both of his providence and of his love. Thus her daily prayers were unto the Father, and to him were all her cares committed ; never doubting, but in the unbounded beneficence of his nature, he would take special care of her children.

She lived in a constant reliance on the promises and promises of God, and was never disappointed ; notwithstanding her faith was frequently tried as with fire ; and now she is dying, could I relate to you the holy joys of her elevated soul, if you were possessed of all the wealth of the Indies, I think you would willingly part with it, if it were possible that you could exchange your condition for such as hers. An explicit narration of her experience, would be of more use to the

the same exposure
igion in one week of her life, than in
preaching of some who are called masters of Is
And now, Novitio, that you may know that
is not ashamed of the meanest of his saints, I b
a mind once more to give you a view of the im
terial world ; thereby you will see, that the an
of God do not despise her because of her pove

This said, he again, in his usual manner,
strengthened my visual ray, that instantly I
the place was filled with the heavenly hosts,
unweariedly ministered to the dying woman ;
she, notwithstanding in the embraces of D
was so transported with holy joy, that she f
the pains of dying. So fervently glowed the
phick flame in her heart, and in such profusio
joys of approaching eternity were poured in
soul, that all sensation of pain seemed to be
By this time the lamp of nature only glimme
the socket, she lay supinely stretched on he
longing and waiting for the dissolving m
continued articul

er glorified soul joined in fellowship with the ministers of heaven, formerly her invisible attendants. Now swift as thought they carried her to the blissful regions of eternal day; where she was received with joyful acclamations by all the hosts of the heaven of heavens: and the ever-adorable Redeemer pronounced her blessed, saying: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord; thou hast been faithful over a few things, therefore thou shalt be a ruler over many." On which I thought a crown of righteousness was put upon her head by the pierced hand of the Redeemer; a palm of triumph given to her, and orders issued to put her in possession of the mansions near the jasper throne; here she strove to outdo Magdalene in praise, and to exalt her voice even above that of Mary, the mother of our Lord. Here was emulation without anger, the most earnest contention without any tincture of pride. Who should be least in their own esteem, who should most glorify and exalt sovereign free and distinguished grace, were the springs of all their heavenly debates. Here Simeon vied with the sweet singer of Israel, the man after God's own heart; the crucified thief, with Enoch and Abraham; Ruth, the Moabitess, with Deborah, the mother of Israel; Jairus, the ruler, contended with Paul the apostle; and babes from the womb claimed a right to sing louder than Solomon, the wisest of men. Here parents strove to surpass their children, and children to exceed the praises of their parents; masters their former servants, and servants their masters; ministers

the heavenly world, my beloved
the unwelcome morning rushed
bereaved me of the precious del
in the night. So I awoke to
sorrow, finding myself still in
possessed as heretofore of th
whence every evil to me procee
dened and groaning, because o
while in this tabernacle. Yea,
to be tired of this world, and y
into another.


THE END.











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